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31st PLENARY MEETING

Friday, 15 October 1993
at 10 a.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. INSANALLY
(Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 8 (*continued*)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ALLOCATION OF ITEMS: FOURTH REPORT OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE (A/48/250/Add.3)

The PRESIDENT: I draw the attention of representatives to the fourth report of the General Committee (A/48/250/Add.3), concerning a request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by Egypt as well as a request for the inclusion of an additional item submitted by the Secretary-General.

In paragraph 1 (*a*) of the report, the General Committee recommends the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport".

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include in its agenda an additional item entitled "Building a peaceful and better world through sport"?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 1 (*b*) of the report, the General Committee also recommends to the Assembly that this item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts this recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Next, I should like to draw the attention of representatives to paragraph 2 (*a*) of the report. The General Committee recommends the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Personnel questions".

May I take it that the General Assembly decides to include in its agenda the additional item entitled "Personnel questions"?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In paragraph 2 (*b*) of the report, the General Committee also recommends to the Assembly that the item be allocated to the Fifth Committee.

May I take it that the General Assembly adopts that recommendation?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Chairman of the Fifth Committee will be informed of the decision just taken.

AGENDA ITEM 13

REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE (A/48/4)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly will now turn to the report of the International Court of Justice covering the

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period 1 August 1992 to 31 July 1993; this report is contained in document A/48/4.

May I take it that the General Assembly takes note of the report of the International Court of Justice?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I call on Sir Robert Yewdall Jennings, President of the International Court of Justice, to address the Assembly.

Sir Robert YEWDALL JENNINGS (President of the International Court of Justice): The International Court of Justice continues to have a full docket of cases: there are at present 11 cases at various stages of the procedure. Recent additions to the list are the case between Hungary and Slovakia over the Danube dams; and the request from the World Health Organization for an advisory opinion concerning the use of nuclear weapons - the only advisory-opinion request in the docket at present.

Twice during this last year the Court has had to deal with complicated and lengthy requests for interim measures of protection in the case brought by Bosnia and Herzegovina against Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) concerning the Genocide Convention. Such requests for interim measures, according to the Court's rules, "have priority over all other cases". These two separate requests were such requests, and the Court dealt with them immediately and with dispatch: the first was handled in some three weeks, and the second in only a little longer time - that period including in both instances time for an oral hearing in which both parties were heard and for the study of several lengthy written observations.

Particulars of the Court's decisions and also of the cases in its docket are given, as members of the General Assembly will know, not only in the Court's own report but also in chapter II, section A of the 1993 report of the Secretary-General on the work of the organization (A/48/1).

I can now add that on 14 June final judgment was given, by 14 votes to 1, in the important case between Denmark and Norway - a further case arising from a unilateral application by Denmark, basing jurisdiction on the "optional clause" of Article 36 of the Court's Statute - concerning the maritime boundary between the east coast of Greenland and the Norwegian island of Jan Mayen. There have been indications that the Court's judgment in that case is perceived by both parties as a satisfactory final settlement of a dispute which protracted negotiations had failed to settle.

One case, between Nauru and Australia, in which a jurisdictional phase was decided last year, was last month the subject of a carefully drawn settlement out of court, resulting in the withdrawal of the case from the Court's list. It will be remembered that last year I was able to report that the Great Belt case between Finland and Denmark had been settled, indeed almost on the eve of the scheduled oral proceedings, in negotiations which had been suggested and encouraged by the Court itself.

There is another case on the Court's list in which negotiations are active, the Court having been asked by both Parties to grant a delay in the procedures to enable the negotiations to continue in order to see whether it might be possible to reach a settlement.

I mention these settled cases, and the case still the subject of ongoing negotiations, because they illustrate a new role for the Court, unimagined by earlier commentators on the adjudication process in international matters. In all these instances of settlement, or attempted settlement, by negotiations after the time when the Court has been seized of a case, some part of the procedures of the Court, such as written pleadings, or indeed a hearing and decision in a preliminary phase, such as jurisdiction or interim measures, had been completed. Thus, it was the intervention of some part of the procedures before the Court which apparently not only made further negotiations in this new context possible but made it possible for them to succeed.

In this way, the Court procedure is beginning to be seen as a resort to be employed in a closer relationship with normal diplomatic negotiation. No longer is resort to the International Court of Justice seen, to use the traditional phrase, as a "last resort" when all negotiation has finally failed. Rather, it is sometimes now to be seen as a recourse that might usefully be employed at an earlier stage of the dispute. I suppose a foretaste of this development was the 1969 North Sea Continental Shelf cases, where the Court, by deciding a legal question that had been a sticking-point, enabled normal negotiations to start again and to resolve the matter in a way acceptable to all parties concerned. This tendency to use the Court, acting under its contentious jurisdiction, as a partner in preventive diplomacy rather than as a last-resort alternative is after all only to conform to the place that courts enjoy in any developed domestic system of law.

The perception of the International Court of Justice as a normal, rather than as an extraordinary, part of international relations may perhaps also be reflected in the fact that the number of declarations of acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction under paragraph 2 of Article 36 - the optional clause - of the Court's Statute is still on a slow but continual upward trend. The total of such acceptances is now 57 out of the 184 Member States. There have also been several additions to the list of treaties with jurisdiction clauses.

It is an interesting development, the significance of which I do not attempt to comment upon here, that the increased busyness of the Court is still the result almost entirely of cases brought under the contentious jurisdiction and that States show more eagerness to use the Court than do those international organizations entitled to ask for advisory opinions.

Whilst speaking of decisions in contentious cases, I should like to say something about the notion one sometimes hears that contentious proceedings before the full International Court of Justice take rather a long time. It is true that the period between the application and the judgment is usually one to be measured in years rather than months. But, in almost all cases, the greater part of that time is taken up by the parties themselves in the preparation and study of two or sometimes three rounds of elaborate written pleadings, followed by oral proceedings in which the parties usually expect to be allowed to talk for typically three or four weeks. So the time actually taken by the Court for deliberation and drafting of a judgment is relatively short. I am not suggesting that the parties necessarily take too long over the preparation of written pleadings and the provision of documentation. The cases we get are very important cases and Governments naturally wish to take time over the preparations leading towards a decision that will be final and is without appeal. It is perhaps also relevant here to mention the fact that the Court's standing Chamber of Summary Procedure has never been employed even though it has remained continuously in being.

To give some idea of the dimensions of some of the cases, let me instance the one which is now in the hands of the Court for decision: the very important territorial dispute Chad/Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, brought to the Court by the Agreement of 31 August 1990. The written pleadings in that case amount to some 30 stout volumes of argument and documentation, and the phase of written pleadings was then followed by five weeks of oral hearings. The documentation is remarkable, for the case involves long periods of colonial history in Africa and both parties have been able to use the relevant British, French and Italian archives. Quite apart from the need for the Judges to read and study this vast if also fascinating array of material, almost every word of it, of course, had to be translated into the other language of the Court. The time-consuming nature of this exercise is evident, and certainly the Court has been working recently under very great pressure.

All these things considered, one is justified in saying that the Court itself really works remarkably quickly, and the time taken will be found in any event, I believe, to compare favourably with other superior courts of both domestic and international jurisdiction.

All of the cases at present on the list are cases brought before the full Court. The Court has, however, found time to establish a Chamber for Environmental Matters, in the belief that some litigants might prefer a Chamber composed of Judges who have expressed a special interest in such matters. It may be useful, however, to make it clear that the establishment of this Chamber for Environmental Matters is in no way intended to suggest that cases involving environmental matters should go to that Chamber, or any other Chamber, rather than the full Court. The jurisdiction of the full Court obviously comprehends environmental matters, as indeed it comprehends any other question of international law. Furthermore, to take a contentious-jurisdiction case to a Chamber will normally require agreement of the parties to do so, whereas the full Court might have jurisdiction, whether under paragraph 2 of Article 36 of the Statute or under some treaty-jurisdiction clause, in a case brought by unilateral application. And, naturally, it would be the normal course to address any request for an advisory opinion to the full Court.

I like to think that the new busyness of the International Court of Justice is at least in part connected with a more realistic appreciation of the place and function of a court of justice in a society governed by the rule of law. Traditionally, the writers and commentators used to put before us what they conceived of as an ideal situation in which all disputes would be submitted for settlement to a court. I think there is now much more appreciation that some disputes require political decisions by a political body. Such a body will of course work within the framework of the law, but the reasons for the decision will be political rather than legal. This, of course, is the scheme of the United Nations Charter, and the fact that that scheme is now being put into operation in a way that has not until recently been practicable helps us to see the Court - the principal judicial organ of the United Nations -

in a new and altogether more realistic context. People are much more likely to resort to the Court if they have a clear idea of what it can and should do, and what it cannot do.

It is here that I should like to express the pleasure and gratitude of all members of the Court for the terms in which the use of the Court is recommended in the resolution of the General Assembly on the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization. It is most encouraging to see the use of the Court thus supported clearly in the general context of "An Agenda for Peace" and as a component of the scheme of preventive diplomacy.

I cannot leave this theme of the role of the International Court of Justice without a mention of today's tendency to proliferate other and specialized courts and tribunals. We may soon have three in The Hague alone: the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and the new international criminal court for crimes committed in the former Yugoslavia. The relationship of these tribunals to each other and to each other's jurisdiction, and their respective contributions to the directions taken by the development of international law by the resulting case law from their decisions, raise interesting and difficult questions which might at some time have to be addressed. There is only one thought I wish to leave with the members of the General Assembly on this occasion: there can be only one "principal judicial organ of the United Nations", as there is normally only one supreme court of any legally ordered community; and that position of the International Court of Justice ought always to be remembered and strenuously protected.

This is probably my last appearance before the General Assembly as President of the Court. I want to thank the Secretary-General and to thank you, Mr. President, and the members of the General Assembly for their immensely valuable support to the Court and to its work. This has been of very great importance to the Court in this time of expansion of its work and of the addressing of the difficult problems of staffing and premises brought about by that very expansion.

Mr. HAAKONSEN (Denmark): So far there has been no tradition for opening a debate on the annual report of the International Court of Justice. The reasons may be twofold: for many years, there were very few cases, if any, to report on; and as the Court is the highest judicial organ of the world community, it may not have seemed appropriate for the General Assembly to pronounce any opinion on the disputes decided with binding effect once and for all by the Court. However, times have changed. States appear nowadays to be more ready to submit their disputes, including politically sensitive ones, to the Court in order to obtain a final and legally binding settlement of the matter. This trend is clearly shown in the Court's report (A/48/4), now before the General Assembly. In addition, the Court's role in furthering the international legal order may be commented upon without interfering with the Court's exclusive competence.

As can be seen from this year's report, the Court is gradually fulfilling its role as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The steadily increasing number of cases brought before it bears witness to this fact. This is particularly satisfying when seen in the context of the United Nations Decade of International Law (1990-1999), during which special attention will be given to the role of the Court both in settling inter-State disputes and as an instrument of preventive diplomacy through its advisory functions. Through the jurisprudence of the Court, the rule of law is gaining further ground within the international community of States, and that is exactly one of the main objectives of the Decade - and beyond.

It should always be kept in mind that bringing a dispute before the Court can never be regarded as an unfriendly act. If diplomacy and negotiations cannot bring about a solution to a long-standing contentious issue between States, the Court in The Hague has proven itself capable of handling its many cases in a flexible and efficient manner. In this respect, it is to be welcomed that the Court has now established a seven-member standing Chamber for Environmental Matters. This topic is indeed one of the high-priority items on the international agenda. Denmark can testify to the Court's ability in so far as the Danish Government has been involved in two cases before the Court within the last five years: the *Jan Mayen* case and the *Great Belt* case. In both cases, the Court has served justice in accordance with the high expectations placed on it by the parties. Thus I can confirm what was expressed just now by the President of the Court.

A particular aspect relating to the *Great Belt* case is worth highlighting, namely the role of the Court in maintaining the option of reaching a negotiated settlement. In deciding a preliminary question concerning provisional measures, the Court indicated at the same time that a negotiated settlement would be welcomed. That indication proved helpful in reaching an out-of-court settlement. Though out-of-court, the settlement was still reached under the Court's auspices. The President of the Court expressed this view in the following way when introducing the annual report of the International Court of Justice (A/47/4) during last year's session of the General Assembly:

> "Whenever the Court or its procedures can help in this way, the Court is, in an important sense, still productively at work." *(A/47/PV.43, p. 11)*

The question may be raised as to whether the Court ought to be empowered to play a more active role in offering its assistance to the parties, as appropriate, with a view to keeping the door open for reaching a negotiated settlement - because whenever there is agreement between the parties, there is also equity.

The Court has shown that it is prepared to deal with all sorts of cases. It is now up to States to show their willingness to accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court. One hundred eighty-six States are parties to the Statute of the Court, but only 57 have recognized its compulsory jurisdiction, and among those is only one permanent member of the Security Council. We hope that Member States will pay due attention to these facts as they are set out in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the report.

It is the hope of my Government that in the years to come this agenda item may be seen by Member States as an opportunity to comment upon the role and functioning of the world Court in furthering an effective international legal order. Settlement of disputes through peaceful means, including the use of the International Court of Justice, should become a normal and acceptable feature in daily international life, as is the case in all national societies governed by the rule of law.

Mr. ROWE (Australia): The Australian delegation wishes to thank the distinguished President of the International Court of Justice for his excellent report and enlightening statement. The role of the Court, as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, is today more important than ever, as so much more is expected of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security.

The United Nations Decade of International Law, now in its second biennium, provides an appropriate context for States to reassess in a positive way their approach to acceptance of the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice, with a view to promoting the Court as a means for the peaceful settlement of international disputes.

In his report "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277), the Secretary-General has expressed the view that greater reliance on the Court could contribute significantly to preventive diplomacy. This view was amplified only last week by the President of the Court, when he reminded us in his address to the Sixth Committee that the International Court of Justice is an integral component of the United Nations system aimed at the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Secretary-General has called upon all Member States to accept the general jurisdiction of the Court before the end of the Decade of International Law. Where unconditional acceptance of general jurisdiction of the Court is not considered possible, the Secretary-General has suggested that States might agree to a comprehensive list of those matters in which the Court's jurisdiction is accepted and might provide for submission of disputes to the Court in the dispute settlement clauses of multilateral treaties.

Australia supports the views expressed by the Secretary-General. The International Court of Justice has been under-utilized for much of its existence, though there has recently been an encouraging trend towards more frequent recourse to the Court, as the President mentioned in his statement this morning. To date, however, fewer than 60 States have accepted its compulsory jurisdiction. One of the best ways to promote the use of the Court as an effective dispute-resolution mechanism is for Member States to make the individual decision, under Article 36 of the Statute, to accept its compulsory jurisdiction. The fiftieth session of the General Assembly, which will coincide with the fiftieth anniversary of the Court, might provide a timely occasion for the recording of progress on movement towards acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction.

We note that in "An Agenda for Peace" and more recently in his report on the work of the Organization (A/48/1), the Secretary-General has recommended that he be authorized to take advantage of the advisory competence of the Court. Commenting on this issue in his recent publication, *Cooperating for Peace*, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, wrote:

> "The Court has been wary of efforts by the UN's political organs to tempt it to render advisory opinions on contentious cases without the consent of the parties. That said, the ICJ has been influential both in dispute and conflict resolution and in assisting the activities of other actors in the international security community, and could become a more valuable adjunct for the Secretary-General in extending the range of responses available in problem situations." *(Cooperating for Peace: The Global Agenda for the 1990s and Beyond, p. 27)*

We know there is still some ongoing resistance to the Secretary-General's proposal, but not, we understand, from

the Court. It is time to give serious consideration to the proposal and to determine the modalities under which such authorization could be granted.

In order to allow for greater recourse to the Court as an effective mechanism for dispute resolution, it will be essential that its procedures allow disputes brought before it to be considered as expeditiously and efficiently as possible. The will of Member States to provide for the enhanced effectiveness of the International Court of Justice may in time be expected to contribute constructively to a reduction in the tensions that result from and further aggravate disputes between States. This would require that the Court have the capacity to deal promptly with individual cases.

In his statement to the General Assembly last year, the President of the International Court of Justice noted that a review of its working methods would assist in improving its functioning and thereby promote its use. Such a review would be of particular value against a background where greater adherence to the jurisdiction of the Court is being promoted as a contribution to the preservation of peaceful relations among States and where the Court is being given more prominence as a dispute-settlement mechanism.

Australia favours such a review, which should take into account the promotion of the wider acceptance of the Court's jurisdiction by the year of its fiftieth anniversary. We note that use is being made of chambers, particularly in the recent El Salvador-Honduras case, which is mentioned in the report, and we would welcome further development of this mechanism. The establishment of the trust fund to assist developing countries in bringing cases to the Court has also been a useful innovation. Above all, it is essential that the Court continue to be provided with adequate resources to carry out its growing tasks. We wish it well, and we reiterate Australia's commitment to it and to the cause of international justice.

Mr. TELLO (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Mr. President, my delegation had asked to make a statement before the General Assembly took note of the report of the Court. When you assumed the presidency of this session of the Assembly, we pledged to work with you as you discharged your functions. You personally asked me to make my statement after the Assembly had taken note of the report. In response to your request, we agreed to speak afterwards, although we do not fully understand or share the arguments that we have heard, which apparently prevent Member States from speaking at the time they deem most appropriate.

My delegation wishes to place on record its gratitude to Sir Robert Jennings for his comprehensive and lucidly instructive introduction to the report submitted by the International Court of Justice for the General Assembly's consideration.

On the eve of the election of the new members of the Court, my delegation wishes to pay tribute to Manfred Lachs. We are appreciative of Judge Lachs' long career dedicated to the development of international law, both inside and outside the Court, and of the invaluable impartiality and independence of his judgements, not to mention his valuable contributions to the teaching of law. The Sixth Committee was honoured to have Lachs as its Chairman on three occasions.

Mexico is one of the 57 States the report identifies as having made the declaration recognizing the compulsory jurisdiction of the Court, in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 5 of Article 36 of the Statute. We wish to congratulate Hungary, which deposited its declaration on 22 October 1992. Even though judgeships on the Court are not limited to nationals of those States that have made such a declaration, it is no doubt true that when that condition is met the Court's image is strengthened, as is countries' commitment to and confidence in the Court.

My Government deems it desirable for the States that have, within the United Nations system, the greatest responsibility regarding international peace and security to show a greater commitment to the Court. The limited presence of the permanent members of the Security Council and that group of 57 States does not have a positive effect on the Court's work, nor on the necessary balance that must exist between the principal organs of the United Nations. The Court's efficacy and capacity for action would no doubt be strengthened considerably if all the permanent members of the Security Council made such a declaration.

In the light of the terms of paragraph 2 of Article 15 of the Charter, by which the General Assembly must receive and consider the reports of the International Court of Justice, my delegation deems it appropriate to speak on this item. The Mexican delegation considers that the General Assembly must fulfil completely the function assigned it by the Charter, and so we call on Member States to give this important report greater attention.

The Mexican delegation invites the General Assembly to take advantage of the introduction of the report of the Court to take part every year in deep reflection on its work

and on the state of its links and relations with the other organs.

We still believe that the Court's participation in the peaceful settlement of international conflicts deserves to be stepped up. Recourse to the Security Council when the Court's means have not yet been exhausted minimizes the latter's potential to resolve legal problems, which sometimes constitute the crux of potential crises. This view could and should be of special usefulness in strengthening preventive diplomacy.

With that very intention, a number of States, including Mexico, have supported the Secretary-General's suggestion that he be granted the competence to request advisory opinions from the Court, when circumstances warrant and in accordance with the precise modalities of the principles of the Charter and of international law.

My delegation takes special satisfaction in noting the ever-growing number of legal consultants taking part in the consideration of the report of the International Law Commission, owing to the determination a year in advance of the date for dealing with that subject. In the light of that experience and in order to facilitate attendance by the greatest number of interested persons to the introduction of the Court's report, my delegation proposes that the date for receiving and considering the report of that principal organ also be set in advance and that both reports be submitted to the Assembly's consideration within a period of time that allows those persons to be present.

I wish also to mention the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General to help States settle disputes through the International Court of Justice and to which my country has contributed. In addition to providing the necessary financial support in order for countries facing economic difficulties to be able to have resort to the Court, my delegation would like to invite the members of the Court and the Secretary-General to consider the possibility of utilizing part of that Trust Fund for the development of training programmes for lawyers appearing before the International Court of Justice.

Finally, my delegation cannot fail to mention the fact that in 1995 the Court, too, will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. We think it would be fitting for the Assembly to invite the judges to reflect on the role that the Court, as the guarantor of international law, is called upon to play in the next century and to share their conclusions with Member States at the next session of the General Assembly.

Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone): First of all, may I express the gratitude and appreciation of the Sierra Leone delegation to Sir Robert Jennings, President of the International Court of Justice, for the excellent statement he delivered when introducing the report of the International Court of Justice. My delegation also wishes to convey its sentiments of recognition and esteem to the other judges who are here with us.

This annual pilgrimage, as it were, is an affirmation of the Charter provision that the International Court of Justice is not only the judicial organ but also an inseparable component of the United Nations.

The presence of the Court here is a further reaffirmation of the shared, noble objective of the General Assembly and the International Court of Justice to resolve international disputes in a peaceful manner. Such an objective is not only enshrined in the Charter but is also firmly rooted in the shared goal of maintaining international peace and resolving international disputes through peaceful means. In that connection, and as the Secretary-General has stated in his report on the work of the Organization to the present session of the General Assembly, the incidence of cases of considerable political as well as legal importance under consideration by the Court shows that the Court not only exists to settle questions of law, but is also an integral part of United Nations peace efforts.

The continued role of the Court in this area is to be welcomed for, as stipulated in Article 33 of the Charter,

> "The parties to any dispute, the continuance of which is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security, shall, first of all, seek a solution by negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement ...".

As I have said, we welcome the role of the Court in the peace effort.

Through the report itself and in the President's introductory statement the international community has been made aware of the various methods and facilities that are available through the Court for the peaceful settlement of disputes. The report states that last year alone the Court dealt with a wide range of disputes, including treaty interpretation, territorial maritime disputes and disputes relating to the alleged violation of human rights and international humanitarian law. It is gratifying to note not only that today the vast majority of States have become Parties to the Statute of the Court but also that, thanks to

the role and facilities it continues to offer, the Court has established its universality and more frequent use is being made of it.

Today, attitudes towards the Court have improved and support for its judicial role has continued to grow. Because of the high standards of fairness and impartiality the Court has maintained in the recent past, the attitude of withdrawal once adopted by many, including most developing countries, is largely a thing of the past, and we now realize that the Court can apply international law impartially, that the interests of the weak can be protected and that the principle of equality between States can best be realized through the Court. Today, through its judgments, advisory opinions, orders and interim measures - in some cases, as the circumstances warrant, delivered with dispatch, as the President reminded us a few moments ago - the Court has been contributing not only to the strengthening of the rule of law among nations but also to a more orderly and humane world.

The Sierra Leone delegation would like to encourage the Court to continue to uphold legal norms which are profoundly imbued with the sense of natural justice and morality and which safeguard human rights and humanitarian law. My delegation welcomed the decision of the Court to establish a Chamber for Environmental Matters in view of the developments in the field of environmental law and the developments that have taken place in the last few years, and considering that it should be prepared to the fullest extent possible to deal with any environmental case falling within its jurisdiction. However, my delegation also welcomes the assurance given by the President that the establishment of the Environmental Chamber does not preclude the referral of environmental disputes to the old corpus of the Court.

My delegation reiterates its support for the establishment of the Trust Fund, which should enable more parties to a dispute to take advantage of the facilities provided by the Court.

Finally, the Sierra Leone delegation would like to encourage the spirit of cooperation between the International Court of Justice and the General Assembly, and we welcome the report of the International Court of Justice.

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 13?

It was so decided

AGENDA ITEM 10 *(continued)*

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION (A/48/1)

Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria): The Nigerian delegation would like to join other delegations that have congratulated the Secretary-General on the lucidity and painstaking manner in which he has drawn up and presented his report.

There is no doubt that this report is, as the Secretary-General has himself admitted, a long one, but he has clearly endeavoured to cover in a bold and imaginative manner all the areas and activities in which the United Nations has been involved during the past year in response to the growing complexity and demands of the international environment.

My delegation has also taken note of the various prescriptions and recommendations by the Secretary-General in the report which are in themselves far reaching and which, if implemented faithfully, would go a long way towards assisting the Organization to achieve the purpose for which it was created.

The United Nations is passing through a crucial phase in the multilateral process of harnessing our collective objectives and aspirations to the common good. It would be a disservice to the entire membership if the United Nations did not endeavour to respond to them, even within the constraints of the limited resources under which it is operating. Fortunately, there is no lack of ideas in the United Nations system. It is therefore our collective responsibility to translate those ideas into concrete objectives which would be of benefit to Member States.

It is significant that the Secretary-General has underscored in his report some of the critical problems confronting the Organization in the areas of peace and security, socio-economic development, the environment and the restructuring of the various organs of the United Nations system. While my delegation would like to commend the Secretary-General for his wisdom and foresight in bringing these issues to the fore, we wish to make the following comments as our contribution to the debate on the subject.

My delegation agrees with the Secretary-General when he posits that without peace there can be no development, and that without development the basis for democracy is tenuous. In this connection, we commend the United Nations for its preoccupation with peace-keeping and peacemaking. We accept that the proliferation of hotbeds

of tensions fuelled by ethnic rivalries, socio-economic disparities, underdevelopment and the emergence of new micro-nationalisms cannot but engage the attention of our Organization. There is an urgent need to streamline the processes such that peace-keeping operations do not become intractable or interminable. Peace is a shared responsibility. Consequently, Member States must retain the necessary political will and ready disposition to contribute their quota to the enabling processes.

It is important also in this regard to take necessary measures to ensure the safety of all personnel involved in peace-keeping operations. My delegation would like to stress that countries which willingly offer to participate in these operations do so as part of their obligations under the Charter and as their contribution to the mitigation of human suffering. It would be tantamount to double jeopardy for such countries to suffer humiliation and abuse in addition to bearing the material costs for assigning their nationals to undertake these United Nations missions. In this connection, prompt and full reimbursement to contributing-troop countries would encourage consistent and even wider participation by Member States in the United Nations peace-keeping operations.

The processes begun under "An Agenda for Peace", which has been a subject of debate in both the General Assembly and the Security Council, should provide additional clarification of the nature and extent of demilitarized zones, pre-emptive deployment and post-conflict peace-building in a manner that respects the sovereignty of all Member States and accepts the merits of prior consultations before such measures are undertaken. In pursuing the purposes of "An Agenda for Peace", it is desirable that the United Nations limit itself to preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping. The issue of post-conflict peace-building involving efforts at putting in place political processes in conflict areas requires caution and additional consideration.

In the wake of the adoption of "An Agenda for Peace", it has become urgent to work for the adoption of an agenda for development. The issue of development is one in which every Member State has a stake and a contribution to make. In view of the widening disparities between the North and the South, the adoption of an agenda for development must undertake as a first step to reactivate the North-South dialogue. Then it should address the issue of trade, official development assistance, the debt crisis and the injection of new financial flows, especially into the economies of the developing countries.

As you are well aware, Africa remains the weakest link in the chain of development. It was in recognition of this fact that Africa's economic crisis was brought to international attention in 1986 with the adoption of the United Nations Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UNPAAERD). Unfortunately this programme failed to achieve the desired result. The General Assembly then undertook a reassessment of UNPAAERD by adopting its New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s with measurable objectives. In my delegation's view, this new agenda will suffer the same fate unless a firm determination is made by the international community to deliver on its commitment. Africa invests a lot of expectations in the implementation of this agenda. We would like to call on the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations fulfills its part of the process. The United Nations has a responsibility to assist in putting in place feasible strategies that will enable Member States to achieve economic growth and sustainable development.

The Secretariat of the United Nations is an international civil service, and like any bureaucracy there is a compelling need for it to look critically at itself, justify its *raison d'être* and reassess how it proposes to meet the challenges of the future. It is in this connection that we welcome the bold steps the Secretary-General has taken over the past 12 months to restructure the Secretariat with a view to achieving efficiency, minimizing waste and promoting accountability. This is as it should be. However, in the process of carrying out this restructuring, care needs to be taken to ensure that the principles of representativeness and of geographical distribution are maintained, particularly at the management level of the Secretariat. Competence is not the monopoly of any one region. The United Nations must indeed be a system that rewards achievement and punishes inadequate performance.

Aside from the restructuring of the General Assembly which has resulted in the reduction of the number of Main Committees, and the ongoing efforts to streamline their workload and working methods, my delegation believes that the time is opportune to address the issue of the democratization of the Security Council. While my Government has already expressed its views on this subject in this body, and in response to the Secretary-General's requests to Member States, it wishes to state once again that the Security Council can lay claim to legitimacy, moral authority and representativeness only when it is fully democratized. We must put in place at the current session of the General Assembly a process that would ensure that this objective is realized not later than the fiftieth session of the General Assembly. The reform process must not be

piecemeal; it must be global to include all the regions. Anything short of this approach will be tantamount to a denial of access. Such a development would be antithetical to the spirit of the Charter.

The United Nations is what we make of it. From an Organization of which so much is expected, so much must be given. Member States have a responsibility to make the Organization viable. To this end we join with the Secretary-General in urging all Member States to endeavour to pay their assessed contributions so that the work of the Organization is not unduly constrained.

Mr. LAMAMRA (Algeria) *(interpretation from French)*: Algeria fully endorses the support for this Organization and for the efforts of the Secretary-General that was expressed anew by the Permanent Representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. It also endorses the Movement's observations, suggestions and proposals as part of a consistent effort to contribute to the strengthening of the United Nations while remaining true to the purposes and principles of the Charter.

The international context is changing rapidly, and the Organization's missions are increasing in number, as are its successes and difficulties, giving special importance to the consideration this year of the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization.

The three words "peace, development and democracy" sum up very well the great challenges of the day, identified by the Secretary-General, who has stressed their interrelationship. In this context, the Organization's unique position and vital role are rightly reaffirmed and demonstrated.

We are grateful to the Secretary-General for presenting a comprehensive report that deals accurately with the Organization's activities in the many spheres with which it deals. At the same time, the report contains analyses, proposals and projections that will stimulate thought, debate and dialogue.

It is undeniable that the past year has been marked by a considerable extension of the Organization's activities in the area of the maintenance and restoration of peace. Its role in the area of preventive diplomacy and post-conflict peace-building has also been strengthened.

The increase in the number of overtures to the United Nations and in the Organization's presence in the field has gone hand in hand with consideration by the General Assembly and by the Security Council of the relevant aspects of the "Agenda for Peace" and with the initiation of measures, at the organizational and institutional levels, aimed at strengthening the Organization's ability to envisage, plan and conduct peace-keeping operations. We consider it essential that this process be pursued and successfully carried out, using all the lessons learned from experience in the field and taking account of the guidelines and principles defined in the two resolutions adopted by the General Assembly on the subject of the "Agenda for Peace".

Similarly, the progress that has undeniably been made in the area of disarmament, as a result of the ending of the cold war, should be consolidated and expanded in order to remove, once and for all, the spectra of nuclear war and eliminate weapons of mass destruction.

At the same time - as is only right - completion of the process of decolonization continues to be one of the priority tasks of the Organization as it endeavours to fulfil its universal purpose.

The Algerian delegation shares the concern which is frequently expressed by the Secretary-General, and which is demonstrated clearly in his annual report, about the exacerbation of the Organization's financial crisis by the accumulation of considerable arrears. In this regard, assurances that have been given over the past few weeks by several contributors and payments that have been received are encouraging developments. However, the fact remains that the situation of the Organization will continue to be precarious so long as its financial base is weakened as a result of the irregular manner in which Member States honour their obligations, or their delay in doing so.

Another striking feature of the past year is the efforts made by the Secretary-General and by Member States to rationalize the structures of the Secretariat and of intergovernmental bodies. This process has involved the mobilization of a great deal of energy in the economic and social sectors. Of course, much remains to be done to democratize structures and their functioning and to improve communication and transparency. However, there is widespread recognition of what is necessary, at least in so far as the Security Council is concerned, and recognition of the need for the General Assembly to play its full role as defined in the Charter.

It seem to us that the time has come to liberate the Organization's potential for initiative in the area of development, to give new momentum and vigour to United Nations action to establish more just and more equitable international relations. The close bond between peace and

development cannot be overemphasized. This is the central issue in the agenda for development. In addition, the integrated approach to human rights as one of the Organization's new priorities - this approach has been advocated by the Secretary-General - should in our view be a natural extension of the recognition by the Vienna Conference on Human Rights of the right to development. It is important that, henceforth, the efforts of everyone should converge towards full realization of this fundamental right, for the benefit of the peoples of the third world.

At the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, consideration of the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization was combined with a discussion of the report "An Agenda for Peace". This resulted in wide participation and aroused great interest. This year's debate confirms the importance of a thorough and constructive study of the Secretary-General's report. The next report of the Secretary-General will coincide with the submission of the agenda for development, which, we hope, will meet expectations and rise to the challenge. We hope that this, in turn, will lead to the qualitative improvements that are essential for clear expression of the faith of the peoples of the United Nations in the building of peace and in the creation of conditions for the well-being of all.

Mr. ABDELLAH (Tunisia) *(interpretation from French)*: I should like, on behalf of my delegation, to extend warm congratulations to the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, on his innovative and substantive report, which, we are sure, will constitute an excellent basis for our continued efforts to strengthen the role of the Organization and increase its efficiency.

Following the statement of the representative of Indonesia, which occupies the presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement, we should like to express our wholehearted support for the position that he set out on our behalf.

We welcome this opportunity to express our satisfaction that the General Assembly is considering such an important report as that of the Secretary-General, in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Charter, which confers upon the General Assembly the power to discuss the activities and future of the Organization.

Consideration of this report will strengthen the role of the General Assembly, especially in the current context, in which, in a spirit of dialogue and understanding, we are striving to revitalize the Assembly's work and strengthen its role under the Charter.

As the Secretary-General stressed in his report, peace, development and democracy are interdependent goals that we all share, to which we are committed and which the international community is capable of achieving on the basis of the vast potential of the Organization, its wealth of experience and its effective capacity to meet the many different challenges to the international community and the well-being of peoples.

The new dynamic approach outlined in "An Agenda for Peace" describes innovative types of peace operations undertaken under the aegis of the Organization. We welcome the fact that immediately after the last session the General Assembly embarked upon an examination of the various suggestions and reached a consensus on them by adopting two resolutions. We would point out that the Security Council also got down to the task of examining various aspects of "An Agenda for Peace", particularly questions of post-conflict economic recovery and reconstruction; the protection and security of personnel assigned to peace-keeping missions; recourse to Chapter VIII of the Charter, which gives a fundamental peace-keeping role to regional arrangements, and the strengthening of preventive diplomacy.

In this regard we would stress once again the importance, as a preventive measure, of the adoption of economic and other measures which do not automatically entail the use of armed force for the purposes of maintaining international peace and security, in accordance with the provisions of Article 41 of the Charter. None the less, we remind the Assembly that, as the Assembly itself said in a resolution (47/120 B) on "An Agenda for Peace", we are concerned that certain States are continuing to encounter economic difficulties because of preventive or enforcement measures applied under Chapter VII of the Charter.

The natural corollary of "An Agenda for Peace" is an agenda for development. We await with great interest the development agenda foreshadowed by the Secretary-General in his report, being convinced, as he is, that human development in all its dimensions, and particularly the social, economic and environmental, must be the focus of the concerns of the Organization and its efforts to promote international cooperation and the establishment of a more united, more just and more stable world.

We are convinced that the Organization must be more effective and play a central role in the establishment of an international order, legally binding, which is more democratic and equitable. The need for further democratization of the decision-making process in the

various organs for more transparency in the functioning of the Security Council is clear. We welcome the process of enlarging the basis of consultation and information in the Council. Any constructive new measure is appreciated. We consider this process as a milestone on the way to consideration of a greater participation of Member States in the work of the Council, thus strengthening its credibility and authority.

With regard to peace-keeping operations we consider that appropriate machinery for regular consultations should be established so that countries which traditionally supply troops, on the one hand, and the Secretary-General, the Security Council and the Military Staff Committee, on the other, could together examine the advisability of, and the means to be used for, launching a successful peace-keeping operation.

Similarly, we wish to stress the need to rationalize the work of the General Assembly. In this regard we welcomed with great interest the adoption of resolution 47/233, and we hope that the working group concerned will come up with useful and relevant proposals on questions such as the examination by the Assembly of reports of the major organs established by the Charter.

Finally, we wish to stress that a revitalized Organization, including its Secretariat, would better guarantee the execution of its mandates in accordance with the priorities assigned to it.

Those are my delegation's preliminary views on the important report on the work of the Organization. Of course, our interest in various aspects mentioned in the document will be no less keen when the various Committees of the Assembly take up the relevant parts.

Mr. CARDENAS (Argentina) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: As the Assembly considers agenda item 10, "Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization" (A/48/1), I shall refer both to that recent report and to the report of the Secretary-General, "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277).

It is a little more than a year since the publication of the report of the Secretary-General requested at the Summit meeting of the Security Council on 31 January 1992. That report, "An Agenda for Peace", stimulated a thorough consideration in the General Assembly and other organs of the Organization of its important contents and various proposals.

The informal working group established by the President of the forty-seventh session carried out intense and difficult work, which led to the adoption of two resolutions 47/120 A and 47/120 B, whose texts owe much to the firm, expert leadership of the representative of Egypt, Ambassador Elaraby, and to the dedication of all those who shared in his efforts.

The Security Council also established a working group which met from time to time. The result of its deliberations is reflected in six statements by the Council's President. Subsidiary bodies of the Assembly also have some of the wise proposals in the report under consideration.

The Argentine Republic has already expressed its position on the document (A/47/232) presented by the Rio Group on 28 May 1992, "Guidelines for strengthening the capacity of the United Nations in the area of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping". That document is still valid.

It would take a long time to carry out a detailed analysis of all the elements in the report of the Secretary-General. I shall therefore confine myself now to drawing attention to three of its ideas.

First, preventive diplomacy and preventive deployment are perhaps, for my delegation, two of the most interesting and important concepts in the report. The subject was considered in the Assembly's unofficial working group, and its preliminary conclusions are reflected in the resolutions.

The Argentine Republic reiterates its determination to work with the United Nations in peace-keeping operations, in keeping with its tradition, and also expressly supports the concept of preventive deployment in peace-keeping operations.

The case of Macedonia, in our opinion, is a perfect example of the effectiveness which can, in theory, be expected from this type of operation. We believe that this item must continue to be considered both by the General Assembly and by the Secretariat, within the framework of peace-keeping operations. We believe that we must begin by implementing, after due adoption, principles and norms similar to those used in other peace-keeping operations.

Secondly, post-conflict peace-building was another of the important subjects considered in "An Agenda for Peace". The international community, over the past few years, has witnessed a large number of armed conflicts,

some of which have been resolved within the framework of United Nations forces. This emphasizes the fact that there is a close relationship between economic development and political stability. We also believe that this concept requires thorough study and should be dealt with by the Secretary-General in his much-anticipated report, "An Agenda for Development".

Thirdly, with respect to the safety of United Nations personnel, Argentina participates, with a significant contingent of troops, in peace-keeping operations. We are therefore very much aware of the importance and urgency of the subject of the safety of personnel functioning in peace-keeping operations. The fatalities this year and the dramatic successes of Somalia and Bosnia and Herzegovina bear dramatic witness to the great seriousness of the problem.

The Secretary-General has clearly drawn attention to this subject in his report. Today, the General Assembly is giving special consideration to this as well. We are pleased that the item has been included on the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly and that the Sixth Committee will soon begin consideration of a draft convention on this subject. In this connection, we would like to give special thanks to the delegations of New Zealand and Ukraine for the energy and hard work they put into promoting this item.

Just a few days ago, we took cognizance of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (A/48/1). This is a comprehensive document which clearly illustrates the special period that our Organization is going through, as is the entire international system. We appreciate the methodological approach taken in this report. We too believe that the objectives of peace, development and democracy are inextricably linked, and a global reality.

More specifically regarding our Organization, we cannot today be indifferent to the crisis around us. This crisis, in our opinion, could, in spite of its complexity, be viewed as growing pains, and this is evident in two particular areas that are closely interrelated: the financial difficulties of the Organization and the vertiginous increase in the number and functions of peace-keeping operations.

Today, we must not only continue to give thought to these matters, but we must seek concrete solutions to existing problems so as to perfect the machinery for creating, executing and concluding these operations, which we will continue to support. If we fail to do so, this crisis, if allowed to continue, will doubtless undermine the credibility of the Organization, precisely at a time when it is finally being called upon to play the role for which it was originally created.

Mr. BELYEV (Belarus) *(interpretation from Russian)*: The delegation of Belarus would like to express to the Secretary-General its gratitude for his report on the work of the Organization (A/48/1). Not only does it give an appraisal of the current state of the world and information on the wide-ranging activities of the United Nations and its major organs, but it also proposes measures for adapting the Organization to new realities as well as recommendations designed to solve the most important problems.

This report of the Secretary-General is not only the longest over the past few years but it is one which contains many new ideas and recommendations as well as a wealth of material on the multifaceted work of the Organization. One cannot but agree with the Secretary-General when he says that "working for peace provides us with no place of rest" (A/48/1, para. 5) and that without peace there can be no development and there can be no democracy (A/48/1, para. 11). We are therefore satisfied at the fact that the report pays so much attention to questions of preventive diplomacy and the settlement of conflicts.

Concrete steps have been taken to realize the ideas and proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277). There has been a strengthening of the potential of the Secretariat for fact-finding and analysis with a view to meeting the early-warning requirements of the United Nations. Discussion of the recommendations of the informal open-ended working group established by the General Assembly has yielded concrete results, and the Security Council has also come forward with concrete proposals. These important matters are being discussed in other organs of the United Nations as well. There has been further development of new forms of preventive diplomacy, fact-finding missions, good-offices missions and goodwill missions, and the dispatch of special envoys to areas of tension.

Most praiseworthy are the tremendous efforts undertaken by the Secretary-General, Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He has devoted a great deal of attention to peacemaking, peace-keeping, and peace-building in post-conflict periods. The question has already been raised here about peace-keeping operations and the problems that arise in this connection for the United Nations and its Member States. In our view, the most vigorous measures are needed to enhance the effectiveness

of peace-keeping operations. At the same time, in their planning and execution the current possibilities and resources of the United Nations must be taken into account.

The Belarus delegation wholeheartedly shares the view of the Secretary-General that in the international context, from the standpoint of security, some important events have occurred that have required new methods of settlement and new efforts on the part of the international community. It is precisely in this spirit that we should approach the talks on the drafting of a comprehensive nuclear-test ban treaty and an extension of the non-proliferation Treaty for an indefinite period. Our Republic has made its own concrete contribution to disarmament, and the Secretary-General stresses in his report:

> "I am gratified that Belarus has recently ratified the non-proliferation Treaty ...". (*A/48/1, para. 474*)

and I personally would add "and the strategic arms reduction Treaty".

The delegation of the Republic of Belarus agrees with the view of the Secretary-General that more attention should be devoted to the Economic and Social Council, which has the role of improving economic and social cooperation as an independent objective enshrined in the United Nations Charter and also as a prerequisite for enduring global peace and security.

At the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 1992 in New York, our delegation supported the proposal by the Secretary-General that the Economic and Social Council should submit to the Security Council reports on situations that, in its view, involved a threat to international peace and security. Unfortunately, due attention has not so far been paid to these proposals.

Our delegation notes with satisfaction the active work of the Organization on implementing the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held from 3 to 14 June 1992 in Rio de Janeiro.

The Belarus delegation has studied with particular attention part B of Chapter II of the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization. Our Republic is one of the countries where interim offices of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have been opened. We have repeatedly stated our support for the Secretary-General's efforts to render assistance to countries going through a transitional period and to organize comprehensive provision by the Organization of services in various areas.

The temporary UNDP office in Belarus is performing some important practical tasks, meeting developmental needs and also supporting the process of our society's transition to new forms of organization. It has become an important link in the chain of coordination of the operational activities of the various specialized agencies and programmes within the United Nations system in our country.

Our delegation shares the Secretary-General's profound concern about the unsatisfactory financial situation of our Organization. Given the gravity of this situation, and despite our extremely difficult economic and financial situation, the Government of Belarus has made a contribution in the amount of $3.5 million to the Organization's budget. At the same time, we expect the Organization, in the form of its major organ, the General Assembly, to take measures ensuring that Belarus's financial obligation to the Organization is in strict concordance with its real capacity to pay.

An important event in the life of the United Nations was the World Conference on Human Rights, which made it possible to analyse and take stock of all previous United Nations work in defending and promoting human rights. The Conference also indicated major areas of activity for the future and identified obstacles that hinder further progress in this area. We fully share the Secretary-General's conclusion that it was a turning-point in the Organization's work to promote and defend human rights.

Our delegation took an active part in the preparations for the Vienna Conference and in the Conference itself. We note with satisfaction that, despite initial disagreements, participants in the Conference were able to find a way of coming to agreement, and thus confirmed the universality of fundamental human rights and principles and reaffirmed the status of the human person as the primary subject of human rights. Of decisive importance for ensuring fuller respect for human rights is the coordination and cooperation of all organs of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and national institutions working in the field.

The institutional reform being undertaken in the United Nations, the creation of new machinery for coordinating humanitarian activities and a step-by-step

approach to the concept of transition from emergency assistance to rehabilitation and development are all important steps towards the management of emergency humanitarian situations. Unfortunately, quite a number of these situations have occurred in the Eastern European region. In this regard, the Republic of Belarus supports the expansion of international preventive measures, which involve the United Nations in difficult humanitarian situations, particularly in hot spots, on the basis of the full consent of the parties concerned.

However, I would like to stress our profound concern at the fact that the United Nations has found itself more and more frequently involved on a larger and larger scale, and having to react not only to the humanitarian consequences of natural catastrophes or technological disasters but also to the consequences of ethnic conflicts and political instability. Therefore, the highest priority of our Organization should, in our view, be the prevention of a deterioration of the humanitarian crises in any part of the world today.

In this context, I would also like to touch on the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe which occurred more than seven years ago. Our delegation shares the deep feelings of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who was recently able to visit one of the countries hardest hit by the Chernobyl disaster and see for himself that the consequences of this tragedy are still affecting the everyday life of millions of people. The Republic of Belarus will develop a new approach on the part of the United Nations system to activities in stricken regions, worked out in conjunction with the new United Nations Special Coordinator on Chernobyl, Mr. Jan Eliasson. The approach received widespread support at the coordinating meeting in Minsk this May, and also at the summer meeting of the Economic and Social Council.

I would like to stress that broad international support in dealing with the wide range of problems inherited from Chernobyl, particularly humanitarian problems, could be one of the most crucial guarantees of the strengthening of democracy and economic and other reforms in our country - not to mention the importance of the lessons of Chernobyl for the whole of the international community.

In conclusion, I would like to express our gratitude for this opportunity to make some comments in connection with the discussion of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization.

Mr. KHARRAZI (Islamic Republic of Iran): My delegation wishes to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General of the Organization and his staff for the report on the work of the Organization. It is not my delegation's intention to touch upon all matters contained in the present report, which includes issues ranging from peace-keeping in different parts of the world to financial problems of the Organization. My delegation will, in due course, expound on different issues contained in the report during the current deliberations of the General Assembly in the plenary as well as in the Main Committees. Rather, I will confine myself to addressing certain areas of the report in general terms which might shed light on the proper functioning of the United Nations in the future.

Let me first emphasize that my delegation is convinced that the United Nations, as the world Organization, can provide the framework for effective cooperation and dialogue among Member States based on the principles enshrined in the Charter. The United Nations has a crucial role to play in maintaining international peace and security and fostering a just and equitable system of international relations. In this regard, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, addressing the current session of the General Assembly, emphasized that:

> "A balanced, objective and far-sighted approach to various international political, economic and cultural crises and challenges, based on justice and on the common principles and objectives enshrined in the Charter, is the most fundamental requirement for the restoration and enhancement of the credibility of the Organization, and can also play a significant role in securing long-term stability and trust." (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth session, Plenary Meetings, 14th meeting, p. [71]*).

During the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" was thoroughly discussed and the members of the Non-Aligned Movement contributed positively during the negotiations and discussions on the report which led to the adoption of resolutions 47/120 and 47/120 B. My delegation maintains that the principles of sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States must be respected in the process of implementing the recommendations contained in the resolutions and in the negotiations that may be conducted in the future on the outstanding issues.

It is unfortunate to note that certain countries have interpreted some aspects of "An Agenda for Peace" as increasing the prerogatives of the Security Council at the

expense of the General Assembly. We believe that such connotations should be rejected and that the role of the General Assembly as the supreme organ of the United Nations should be upheld. Article 24 of the Charter clearly states that the Security Council acts on behalf of the Members of the United Nations. Therefore, the Security Council should be accountable to the General Assembly, which is composed of the entire membership. The General Assembly must exercise its powers and functions relevant to the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter. Noting the Secretary-General's view that the agenda of the General Assembly is in need of some rationalization, my delegation believes that the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly, including the rationalization of the agenda, should be conducted through an informal open-ended working group, as reflected in resolution 47/233. We are prepared to work in this working group towards that end.

In the wake of the cold war, the Security Council has expanded its activities. As reflected in the Secretary-General's report, during the period from 1 January 1992 to 31 August 1993, the Council held numerous meetings and adopted numerous resolutions and statements. My delegation appreciates the fact that the Security Council has been meeting almost continuously and that it has studied a variety of security threats around the world. Now the question is whether the Security Council - especially its permanent members - has acted resolutely and expeditiously to uphold justice and the principles of the Charter to reverse aggression. Has the Council shown the necessary political will to stop applying double standards?

Unfortunately, the Security Council has been unable to shoulder its responsibilities in dealing with some clear cases of aggression, the most recent of which is the Serbian aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a Member of the United Nations. The Security Council should ensure that its role conforms to its mandate as defined in the Charter. Furthermore, the Council should respect the principle of transparency in its work and avoid undemocratic practices and hidden agendas. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Iran concurs with the Secretary-General's view that:

> "Informal consultations should be punctuated by more formal meetings in order both to inform, and to seek support from, the wider circle of Member States." (*A/48/1, para. 38*)

The current international climate is conducive to working urgently on the issue of reactivating the North-South dialogue to strengthen international economic cooperation for development. During the recent Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in New York on 4 October 1993, the Ministers noted that the persistent recession in the developing countries and continuing economic stagnation in many of them were stifling their development efforts. In our opinion, the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in bringing development issues to the attention of the international community. In this regard, my delegation appreciates the work of the Secretary-General in the preparation of a report on an agenda for development, as requested in General Assembly resolution 47/181, and looks forward to receiving the preliminary report of the Secretary-General, to be submitted to the current session of the General Assembly, as noted in the Secretary-General's report on the work of the Organization.

To conclude, I wish to refer to the measures taken by the Secretariat to enhance productivity in conference services, as reflected in the Secretary-General's report. My delegation is of the view that the introduction of these measures has caused difficulties for the proper functioning of the work of delegations. Cognizant of the difficult financial situation of the United Nations, my delegation wishes to emphasize the importance of providing full services to Member States in terms of both conference services and distribution of documents.

Mr. MARKER (Pakistan): My delegation would like to express its profound appreciation to the Secretary - General for his report on the work of the Organization contained in document A/48/1.

The Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, the Ambassador of Indonesia, and the Chairman of the Group of 77, the Ambassador of Colombia, have already expressed views which largely reflect the substance of my delegation's ideas. The report reflects a deep comprehension of the strong currents of history flowing in these troubled yet interesting times. The report manifests the Secretary-General's vast academic qualifications, his renowned diplomatic experience and skills, and his political courage in standing up in defence of justice, equity and peace. The report brings out the many achievements of the Organization as well as the challenges which require urgent and prompt response. My delegation is particularly impressed by the comprehensive manner in which the report established linkages underlying the need to take a composite approach for the realization of lasting peace around the world.

As the Secretary-General has said, the United Nations has a second chance today to live up to the role envisaged for it under its Charter. The euphoria of yesterday is being tempered by the sobering realities of today. But we must not allow temporary difficulties in implementing the will of the world community to cloud the vision and promise of the United Nations Charter.

The Pakistan delegation is particularly gratified that the Secretary-General has drawn the attention of the world community to the problem of Jammu and Kashmir in paragraph 352 of the report. The suppression of the right of self-determination in Kashmir has led to massive violations of human rights. It also threatens international peace and security, and my delegation deems it entirely appropriate that the issue remains under consideration by the United Nations. In this connection, it may be stated that the United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) has an essential role to play in ameliorating this grave situation and reducing tension and conflict. UNMOGIP should be enabled fully to carry out its mandate to patrol the line of control on both sides.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has offered his good offices to India and Pakistan to help in resolving the Kashmir question. Pakistan welcomes this initiative and has conveyed its acceptance of the Secretary-General's offer of good offices.

Mr. ROWE (Australia): We welcome the very comprehensive and focused report (A/48/1) which the Secretary-General has presented on the work of the United Nations over the past 12 months.

The report demonstrates unequivocally that with the changes which have occurred in the world in recent years, the United Nations now has a pivotal and more challenging role to perform than at any other time in its history in establishing world order and in seizing the opportunity to make progress across the range of activities within its mandate as set out in the Charter.

We share the Secretary-General's view that the pattern of the past 12 months displays three realities: the comprehensive nature of the global challenge; the indispensability of the United Nations, and the gap that has been revealed by the fact that the demands of Member States on the Organization are not matched by the resources provided.

The challenges presented by these realities are considerable, not least because of the essentiality of working to achieve a unified and integrated approach to peace, development and democracy.

These changes and these challenges require responses of substance. But in addition to dealing with each substantive issue - whether in the field of peace, arms control, economic development, human rights or the response to non-military threats to security - we are compelled to add to the list of those tasks the need to reform ourselves, to renew our institutions.

The report indicates the Secretary-General's readiness to implement change and records practical steps which have been taken so far, in several areas. We welcome this approach.

However, if the United Nations is to play, with maximum effectiveness, the central role which is now demanded of it, then further change - further reform - in the system really is necessary. Unless the Organization develops a comprehensive capacity to address today's and tomorrow's problems, there is a real risk of its gradually losing, with Governments and peoples around the world, the credibility it needs to survive.

This is particularly so in relation to the role of the United Nations and the international community generally in securing peace in the world of the 1990s and beyond. This particular role is vital because, as the Secretary-General notes, without peace there can be no development and there can be no democracy.

The Secretary-General's invaluable document "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277) stimulated a major international debate on this particular role for the Organization. There have been very practical consequences since then in implementing the recommendations in the Agenda, as mentioned in the report on the work of the Organization. But more remains to be done.

In his address to the General Assembly at its 5th plenary meeting, two weeks ago, the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, presented a study entitled *Cooperating for Peace*, which represented an Australian contribution to the ongoing debate begun by "An Agenda for Peace". In *Cooperating for Peace* Senator Evans identified seven priority areas for change, to give the United Nations that comprehensive capacity to meet the challenges of our times.

The first is to restructure the Secretariat to ensure that the Secretary-General has an effective chain of command

exercising authority over major United Nations operations, and to consolidate and coordinate in a more orderly and manageable way the present range of departments and agencies. We support the proposal that the Secretary-General create a new senior structure at United Nations Headquarters, under which he would have four Deputy Secretaries-General responsible respectively for Peace and Security, Economic and Social Affairs, Humanitarian Affairs, and Administration and Management. Each such Deputy would have full executive responsibility for the operational issues falling within his or her portfolio, subject only to direction by the Secretary-General. This would be a big change, and it is not the first time it has been proposed, but it is the change that, more than anything else in our view, would create the conditions for more orderly and effective management throughout the United Nations system.

The second priority need is to resolve conclusively the critical funding problem of the United Nations. Overwhelmingly, the problem is one that has been created by Member States and is entirely within our ability to resolve by meeting our assessed contributions for regular budgets and peace operations in full and on time. If the bulk of current arrears were to be paid by the end of this year, the United Nations finances would be in a quite healthy position, with the Working Capital Fund, the Peace-keeping Reserve Fund and the Special Account all replenished, and the Organization in a position to meet all outstanding troop-contribution costs.

The third priority is to improve the management of peace operations, both at Headquarters and in the field. Some very significant and useful steps have been taken in this regard and are mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, such as more clearly defining the respective roles of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs and incorporating the Field Operations Division into the Department of Peace-keeping Operations. But more remains to be done, including in particular the development over time of a properly constituted general staff to plan and manage the military dimensions of such operations.

The fourth priority is to give special attention to the machinery of preventive diplomacy, again both at Headquarters and in the field. These efforts have been largely ad hoc in the past, although the Department of Political Affairs is gradually building a core of appropriate expertise. Quite apart from anything else, there is an overwhelming cost advantage in doing more to stop disputes becoming armed conflicts. We welcome both the recognition in the report that preventive diplomacy is now becoming understood as a vital field for practical action and the Secretary-General's own involvement in preventive diplomacy. We consider that the most promising approach to upgrading United Nations preventive diplomacy would be one which gave the Organization the capacity to offer a dispute resolution service to its Members, providing skilled third-party assistance through good offices and mediation. We suggest in this respect the creation of a number of regionally located peace and security resource centres to help carry out both preventive diplomacy and peacemaking functions closer to the area where problems arise. We also suggest there be a substantial upgrading of the information and analytical capability available to the Department of Political Affairs for these and related purposes.

The fifth priority is to rethink the system of humanitarian relief coordination. Despite advances that have been made with the creation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, we think some basic structural problems remain. We propose that they be addressed in a rather radical way by the creation of a new disaster response agency - combining the relief and basic rehabilitation functions of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme - which would work directly with the suggested Deputy Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs.

The sixth priority, as we see it, is to take various steps to raise the profile within the United Nations system of peace-building. This is the point of intersection between the peace and security role of the United Nations and its economic and social role, and it should be given recognition and emphasis as such. The pursuit of peace and security has to include the satisfaction of basic human needs as well as the direct prevention, containment and settlement of armed conflict. Much of the United Nations system is, in fact, concerned with peace-building in the form of activities such as the making of international law, disarmament, economic and social advancement, sustainable development, democratization and institution-building. But much more can be done, organizationally, to link these activities together, recognize their security significance and ensure that they are pursued with a sense of common purpose.

The remaining priority, a very large subject in itself, is to regenerate the Security Council - not because it is now working ineffectively, but because its manifest lack of representativeness is beginning to have an impact on its legitimacy. The Security Council is the linchpin of the whole United Nations peace and security system, and it is

in no one's interest that its credibility should be allowed to erode gradually. The outstanding questions about the size and shape of the Council should certainly be resolved by the time of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, in 1995. Indeed, this remains an ideal target date for the achievement of a whole range of necessary organizational reforms.

Our survival in the 1990s and beyond will depend on our developing a new understanding of what constitutes security and what contributes to it. It will depend on our capacity to think clearly about how to react to new security problems as they arise. It will depend on us all developing and sustaining habits of dialogue and a real commitment to cooperating for peace. And it is through peace that we shall be able to make headway with regard to the urgent need for development in all its many dimensions.

The attainment of peace, development and democracy will also, though, depend on our willingness to rethink and reshape our institutions, particularly the United Nations, so that they can cope with the new realities. The Australian proposals are offered in this constructive spirit.

The Secretary-General's report clearly reflects his commitment to meeting the challenges posed by these new realities. He acknowledges in his introduction that the renaissance of the United Nations remains in question and that the international community stands at a turning-point. Thus, his report is a stimulus to greater realism, engagement, effort and political creativity. We should all work with the Secretary-General to achieve the realization of that objective, which we all share, of a more stable world order through a stronger and more effective United Nations.

Mr. YASSIN (Sudan) *(interpretation from Arabic)*: In discussing the Secretary-General's report (A/48/1) dated 10 September 1993, which covers the period between the forty-seventh and the forty-eighth sessions of the General Assembly, we must commend the report. Unlike the reports of previous years, it is quite long - the longest and most detailed document on the work of the Organization over 12 months. It covers many vital points of interest to the international community in the areas of development and the achievement of international peace and security.

It is not our intention to deal with this significant document analytically. My delegation may find an opportunity to deal with some of its aspects at length in the General Assembly's competent Committees. However, it may be appropriate here to deal briefly with some of the aspects covered by the report together with those aspects which relate directly to Sudan.

We associate ourselves with the Secretary-General's idea expressed in part III of the report, "Developing the global community", that we must stop and reflect on this important issue that is so vital to all human societies. It has to do with global development activities, operational activities for development, regional development activities and human rights.

We agree with the premise that human development in its social and economic dimensions is the essential foundation of all global development efforts. We look forward to the Secretary-General's initiative on an agenda for development, and hope that it will set the guidelines for the Organization's work in the future in both the economic and the social fields.

One of the reasons which led to the emergence of social and economic hotbeds of tension in the developing world has been the neglect of development in those two major areas. While most of the countries of the developing world have liberated themselves from colonialist domination, they are still in thrall to unfair economic and commercial and monetary systems. They have been calling, through their regional institutions, for activating the North/South dialogue and for alleviating the debt burden that has broken their backs and deprived them of the ability to achieve economic growth and prosperity. The developed countries have to abandon their conditions within the framework of bilateral economic and monetary cooperation and to embark upon collective multilateral negotiations. We seek a suitable mechanism that would make it possible to achieve this end. Having said this, we must state that there can be no development for the countries of the developing world unless they are enabled to acquire modern technology and to acquaint themselves with the scientific methods of development. This is a matter we hope the Secretary-General's development programme will touch upon.

As regards Agenda 21, Sudan, in its regional context, has cooperated fully and has provided all the environmental studies that could contribute to this great humanitarian effort aimed at sparing the world grave environmental disasters. Despite the close cooperation between Sudan and the United Nations Environment Programme, we are still eager to have further cooperation in the field of environmental law and in completing the establishment of our environmental institutions so that we may be able to implement the recommendations of the

Earth Summit in Rio, especially in the field of combating drought and decertification.

It may be fitting here to refer to the pioneering role that the Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development (IGADD) could play in the field of combating decertification, drought and the monitoring of environmental disasters if it is provided with the adequate funding and technical support it requires for the important projects it has submitted and continues to submit to the donor country in order for them to consider the possibility of providing the necessary funding. The Authority can play a significant role that would complement the efforts of the competent United Nations agencies in preventing the catastrophes that may overwhelm the Horn of Africa and Eastern Africa. From this rostrum, we call for all possible support to that Authority and invite all United Nations agencies to extend to it the close cooperation it needs. We look forward to participating effectively in the World Summit for Social Development, scheduled for 1995 in Copenhagen, as it is intended to deal with issues that have a direct bearing on the developing world. In the same spirit, we look forward to participating in the Fourth World Conference on Women, scheduled for 1995 in Beijing, as we expect the Conference to focus on the importance of the pioneering role of women in developing human societies and because we are convinced that the achievements of women since the Third World Conference on Women, held in Nairobi in 1985, will encourage us to deploy efforts towards the advancement of women.

As regards the activities of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) mentioned in the report, it behoves us here to commend the close cooperation by this programme with the Government of Sudan in many areas, including those of expanded immunization, oral rehydration therapy, provision of fresh water and health services for mothers and children, a matter which has led to a fall in infant and mother mortality rates. UNICEF also works in concert with the Government of Sudan in combating the guinea-worm disease and in dealing with the imbalances that result from iodine deficiency.

Given the importance my country attaches to mothers' and children's health, a high council for child health care under the personal supervision of the Head of the State has been established. Also, a giant Ministry of Social Planning has been established with a view to promoting the welfare of Sudanese citizens in every respect.

As for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) we commend Mr. Speth, the Administrator of the programme which is of great importance to us in the developing countries. However, alleviating the intensity of poverty, the management of development, the environment and natural resources, enhancing the role of women in development, ensuring technical cooperation and harnessing science and technology in the service of development are objectives which cannot be achieved except by increasing the Programme's technical and financial capabilities. We look forward to further efforts by this important Programme and closer cooperation with other United Nations specialized agencies as well as with international and regional financial institutions.

Once peace is established in Sudan, we look forward to increased cooperation with the Programme in the repatriation of displaced persons and refugees and the rebuilding of all that has been devastated by war. We wish to restore the social fabric in the South and to enable the citizens there to return to normal life and to obtain their basic needs.

We wish to express our full appreciation for the remarks in the report of the Secretary-General concerning the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) because of its assistance in implementing our plan aimed at linking the priorities of our national development policies to population activities. We have received appropriate assistance in formulating the plans of the last census in the country.

Within the framework of our cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP) as contained in the report of the Secretary-General, Sudan offered 153,000 tonnes of grain to the World Food Programme to be distributed to all the needy in the country, especially in the southern part. Ninety thousand tonnes have been distributed but we have not been able to deliver the remainder. We hope that countries and institutions in a position to do so will help us meet our commitments by providing land, river and air transport facilities.

The chapter that we mentioned deals with many of the activities by several agencies and organizations. The limits of time make it difficult to enumerate those activities. However, we are sure that those organizations and agencies have discharged their mandates.

We share with the international community the great interest it takes in human rights issues. We thank the Secretary-General for his keen interest in that area and hope that he will be able to build the necessary institutions to deal with human rights. We have participated effectively in the Vienna World Conference on Human Rights. We have warned and continue to warn against

selectivity and double standards when applying human rights standards. Human rights are fundamental and should not be politicized. Also, the right to development is an inherent human right.

As regards the establishment of the post of a high commissioner for human rights, it may be necessary for this session and the working groups of the relevant Committees in focusing on the principle of establishing such a post to focus on the parameters of the mandate and sphere of competence of that important post, as well as on the necessary consensus which we hope will be achieved on this issue.

As for the fourth chapter concerning preventive diplomacy, humanitarian assistance and conflict resolution, we hope that "An Agenda for Peace" will be organically linked to the development programme proposed by the Secretary-General. In this regard, we associate ourselves with those who have spoken before us about the activities of the Security Council which have intensified recently. We hope that the Security Council will take it upon itself to implement its resolutions in a balanced manner that avoids discrimination. We hope that the General Assembly will be a genuine partner in the making of resolutions relating to international peace and security. Preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution cannot be practiced unless they are pursued in full cooperation with regional organizations. Peace cannot be preserved and maintained without removing the causes of national and regional conflicts with all their social and economic aspects. We cannot but pay tribute to the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which has been able to contain numerous conflicts in Africa, and hope that other regional organizations will follow suit.

The turmoil in Bosnia and Herzegovina cannot be considered by any yardstick as one of the successes of preventive diplomacy. Having said that, we command, from this rostrum, United Nations successes in Cambodia and El Salvador while calling for a complete revision of its role in Somalia, especially with regard to departures from their mandates by United Nations forces in that country.

My delegation wishes to refer here, in particular, to paragraphs 492 and 493 of the report which relate directly to current events in Sudan. I wish to commend in this respect the report's highlighting of the many efforts deployed by my country with the aim of ensuring delivery of humanitarian relief to all citizens without any discrimination whatever, wherever they may be, including the areas of rebellion and military operations. This is a precedent and model to be presented to the international community, represented by Operation Lifeline and the ensuing agreements between the United Nations, international non-governmental and voluntary organizations, as well as the rebellion movement, with all its various factions in December 1992 and 1993, and with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in March 1993.

While we consider paragraph 493 of the report on the Sudan to be positive on the whole, we notice that it does not refer with enough clarity to the mission of Ambassador Traxler or to the reasons of my Government's reservations, at first, on that mission. My country's position stemmed from the fact that the framework of Ambassador Traxler's task had not been defined in an unambiguous manner and that it was reported that the mission had political dimensions which encroached upon our national sovereignty as it was defined without prior consultation with my Government. When the purely humanitarian framework of the mission was clarified, my country welcomed it and hospitably received the Ambassador, thus ensuring the full success of the mission and the achievement of its objectives.

Sudan, in line with its ethical and cultural beliefs, has always been faithful to the donors of assistance to its people. Therefore, the contents of paragraph 482 of the report which mentions the murder of United Nations staff who worked in humanitarian programmes are indeed a source of sorrow to us. However, the report has remained silent with regard to the parity that perpetrated this evil deed, namely the rebellion movement which has assassinated four relief workers and launched numerous attacks on relief craft, thus turning this humanitarian effort into a weapon which it uses to starve and coerce the innocent into joining its ranks.

I wish also to refer to paragraph 488 of the report which dealt with human suffering in a number of countries, including the Sudan.

My country absolutely believes the current conflict in southern Sudan cannot be resolved militarily but must be resolved through genuinely peace-oriented negotiations. We call upon the international community to give its blessings to the efforts of the Sudan Government in this respect. By the same token, those circles that lend material, moral or political support to the rebellion in southern Sudan should desist from doing so in order to put an end to the human suffering in the areas of conflict and since such support constitutes interference in my country's internal affairs.

Sudan has welcomed all initiatives by the leaders of Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria and by international personages such as the former United States President Mr. Carter. Sudan has also welcomed the recent initiatives of Presidents Moi, Museveni, Zenawi and Afwerki of Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia and Eritrea respectively aimed at reaching a peaceful solution to the conflict in southern Sudan through negotiations and at breaking the present deadlock. In this spirit we maintain that the international community is duty bound to observe the principles of the Charter and international law in order to promote the peace efforts in Sudan and to refrain from taking measures that would contribute, in one way or another, to impeding the achievement of this objective.

Mr. PIRIZ BALLON (Uruguay) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: We should like first of all to express our congratulations to the Secretary-General on the report (A/48/1) he has submitted to us on the work of the Organization. We admire the exhaustive information he has given us and appreciate his deep analysis of the problems confronting the Organization, problems that reflect the very complex reality the international community must face.

That objective reality is not fundamentally the result of anything the Organization, its Members or its leaders and administration - that is, the Secretariat - have done or have failed to do. The reality - the world situation in which we live today - is the result of the collapse of an unjust political order that has not been replaced by the new order of peace and equity that all the peoples of the world had hoped for. The resulting disorder manifests itself in xenophobia, racism, historical resentments, political intolerance, tribal conflicts and so on. Nor has there been any lack of illegitimate political ambitions on the part of individuals, nations and clans that, taking advantage of chaotic conditions, seek to gain ascendancy through force and violence.

We all recognize that the background and, in large part, the primary cause of these ills is the influence of economic and social factors that affect developing countries in particular. In this regard, the Secretary-General's report points out quite rightly the linkage between peace and development, and we eagerly look forward to the submission of the report on an agenda for development.

In the face of the potentially apocalyptic state of affairs we have just described, this question arises: who, what forces or what centres of power will be able to impose order? Equally important is the question of how a new system of international relations can be created and what form it will take, a system whose principles and norms reaffirm the concept of States while also recognizing the intrinsic rights of human beings. There seems to be no Power or alliance of Powers in the world that is willing and materially able to exercise its authority unilaterally, and let us be thankful for that. What is more, certain isolationist tendencies can be perceived. Apparently - and we should like to believe it to be so - the fruit of the advances made in international ethics is the preference for achieving a new order based on multilateral, participatory action, though our hope is tempered by the evidence that, while all States are equal, some are more equal than others.

However, there is a consensus that on the basis of participatory multilateralism it must be the United Nations that carries out the laborious task of establishing an order that is politically acceptable to all and that at the same time aims at solving urgent economic and social problems. If we decide to assign this crucial role to the United Nations, we must recognize that the first priority must be to put out the fires, to halt, contain or at least mitigate conflicts. At the same time, we shall have to act effectively and swiftly to attack the underlying causes of many of these tragedies: underdevelopment, dire poverty and the unjust order that prevails in the economic and trade relations between nations.

Obviously, in order to take up such a formidable challenge we need to strengthen the United Nations and make sure that we do not thereby trample on inviolable principles such as the sovereignty of States, non-intervention and the self-determination of peoples. Strengthening the United Nations within these terms means faithfully interpreting the Charter as regards the allocation of competencies among the various organs of the system.

In this context we must also strengthen the Secretariat's capacity for taking initiatives and expressing views, but not of taking decisions. In this connection, my country has from the outset paid tribute to the Secretary-General for his proposals in "An Agenda for Peace". In addition, for reasons of urgency, many of the initiatives suggested therein have been implemented in the course of events through action by the Security Council and in most cases with the tacit or express approval of the General Assembly or the Member States.

If we are to judge the Secretariat's performance, let us not beat around the bush: we would excuse certain errors that may have been committed, but what we would not excuse is the inertia of a body under the control of

Member States that is asked, in view of the urgency of the situation, to produce concrete ideas and suggestions.

In that regard we believe that the strengthening of the Organization must lead to greater effectiveness in the execution of the mandates entrusted to the Secretary-General. For this reason, in the case of interim offices, though we fully share the position of the Group of 77 that such offices must never assume political functions, we recognize as quite valid the desire to impose greater coordination and effectiveness on operational activities, in keeping with General Assembly resolution 47/199. This subject could also be dealt with in the context of the questions related to the process of restructuring the economic and social system. In any case, such an approach would help to clear up misunderstandings and ease concerns regarding the character and competencies of those offices.

In summary, this and other subjects and ideas dealt with in the Secretary-General's report deserve our Government's special attention. We are prepared to consider them and their adoption so long as, in the General Assembly and other bodies, we have removed certain elements in which, for the sake of pragmatism and effectiveness, the constitutional authority of the Secretariat may be exceeded. This is the very criterion we apply when examining the paragraphs on preventive diplomacy and the future of peace-keeping operations.

Uruguay believes that the net result of what has been done is unquestionably positive. Millions of people all across the world can bear witness to the effective action of the Organization, and Uruguay is very proud to take part in this collective enterprise.

We regard peace-keeping operations as an element in the political settlement of a given conflict through the creation of a climate of stability. Obviously, however, they are not appropriate to every crisis.

What, then, are the prerequisites for the deployment of a peace-keeping force?

In our opinion, the first is strict compliance with the principles of international law, as enshrined in the Charter - in particular, the peaceful settlement of dispute, non-intervention in internal affairs, and the self-determination of peoples.

The second prerequisite is the existence of a viable, precise and well articulated mandate, providing, so far as possible, a realistic timetable - something that requires a Security Council decision based on reliable information. We are very happy to note the steady improvement in the formulation of peace plans and the tendency to approve very clearly defined mandates. Similarly, we warmly welcome the increase in the planning capacity of the Secretariat, which should be manifested in expansion of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations.

The third important factor is unified command and control by the Secretary-General, under the political supervision of the Security Council. Strict implementation of this principle is essential to the success of any operation. Unified command must be scrupulously respected.

Fourthly, the safety of personnel - military or civilian - involved in operations must, so far as possible, be guaranteed. In this respect, we welcome the recent Security Council resolution on the subject and General Assembly resolution 47/120 B. We support the initiative of New Zealand and Ukraine in proposing that the Sixth Committee discuss the preparation of a draft convention on the security of personnel.

Fifthly, there must be adequate financing. This will necessitate careful supervision of the budget and of the conduct of the operation and a renewed formal commitment by countries to pay their contributions fully and on time.

The sixth requirement is the non-use of force. Action under Chapter VII of the Charter or operations with broad mandates, in what might be called the grey area - including the imposition of sanctions and the use of force - should be undertaken only after the failure of political measures as provided for in Chapter VI.

Faced with the crises in Somalia, Haiti and Bosnia, people yield easily to frustration and to the temptation to indulge in criticism of United Nations actions. We do not believe that the Organization is above criticism. On the contrary, we are quite prepared to make whatever contribution we can to its improvement. However, before engaging in blind, emotional criticism, we must give some thought to the fact that the United Nations is only the sum of its Members. Thus, we are all bound to its successes and its failures. In varying degrees, but collectively, we are all responsible for the fruits of the labours of the Organization.

Mr. MISHRA (Nepal): The Secretary-General has described his annual report to the General Assembly as the longest for many years. My delegation greatly appreciates

his comprehensive overview of the activities of the United Nations during the past year.

The issues dealt with in the report relate to several major items before the General Assembly at the current session. My delegation will deal with them as appropriate when the relevant agenda items are taken up at plenary meetings or at meetings of the Main Committees. I have in mind, in particular, the Secretary-General's views with regard to peace-keeping operations. At this stage, I wish to make a few general observations.

My delegation shares the Secretary-General's opinion that the United Nations has a central role to play in advancing peace, security and development. In this context, I wish to refer to the address given by the Prime Minister of Nepal last Wednesday, in the course of the general debate. The Prime Minister said that bridging the gap between the developed and the developing countries is an integral part of the efforts to strengthen world peace and security. He said also that the current climate in international relations presents an opportunity to reactivate North-South dialogue and to enhance South-South cooperation. With this expectation, my delegation looks forward to the Secretary-General's agenda for development, which, we trust, will provide firm ground for an exchange of views on a framework for concrete action to promote international cooperation for development.

The delegation of Nepal agrees with the Secretary-General that it is important to promote democracy in all aspects of international relations - particularly within the United Nations system. In this exercise, the General Assembly occupies one of the most important positions. Together with fellow members of the Non-Aligned Movement, Nepal has supported the proposals aimed at revitalizing the General Assembly. We are pleased that you, Mr. President, intend to continue this process during the current session.

On the question of strengthening the United Nations, it is important that action be taken to ensure that the Security Council is representative in character and that there is transparency in its activities. We have communicated to the Secretary-General our views on the composition of the Council. My delegation looks forward to a more detailed discussion of this question later in the session.

My delegation will provide all possible support for the Secretary-General's efforts to streamline the Secretariat and the Organization's presence in the field. We understand that the Secretary-General is motivated by the desire to increase efficiency and cost-effectiveness. Nepal, as a least-developed country, values the multilateral assistance for its development efforts. My delegation therefore emphasizes that restructuring and streamlining should not be at the cost of the loss of programmes and projects for development.

The report of the Secretary-General, "An Agenda for Peace", was the subject of extensive discussions during the forty-seventh session. The General Assembly has adopted two important resolutions dealing with various proposals of the Secretary-General. My delegation believes that the concepts and proposals in "An Agenda for Peace" are evolutionary. This is an ongoing process, and my delegation is ready to cooperate in further discussions.

The PRESIDENT: A number of delegations have asked to speak in exercise of the right of reply, and I shall call on them now.

Mr. ANSARI (India): My delegation asked to speak at this late hour only on account of the remarks relating to my country in the statement on this agenda item by the representative of Pakistan. My Government has taken note of the paragraph on India and Pakistan in the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly. It appreciates his reference to the Simla Agreement and to the commitment therein of the two sides to resolve the issues peacefully, through negotiations.

The Government of India reaffirms its belief that such negotiations should be conducted bilaterally, in the letter and spirit of the Simla Agreement, and without external interference, and calls upon the Government of Pakistan to eschew the path of violence and terrorism and revert to the Simla process for resolving bilateral issues, in the larger interests of the peoples of the two countries.

My delegation has noted with surprise and dismay the effort by the delegation of Pakistan in the General Assembly deliberately to engineer an atmosphere of crisis. It is our apprehension that the purpose is to avoid bilateral discussions. That apprehension seems to be confirmed by the language used by representatives of Pakistan in briefing foreign Governments on the subject. One sentence reads:

> "The present Government of Pakistan is fully capable of conducting talks. However, we are not anxious for talks with India".

Members may wish to note the expression used: "capable", but not "anxious".

I submit that the unwillingness is because Pakistan has opted for the paths of subversion, terrorism and hostile propaganda against India as its principal instruments of policy. Each of those violates the bilateral agreements referred to by the Secretary-General in paragraph 352 of his report.

The PRESIDENT: I would appeal to representatives to be as brief as possible, as the hour is late.

Mr. KHAN (Pakistan): I shall be as brief as possible, keeping in mind the statement of the Indian representative.

First, I note with satisfaction that the Indian Government has at least taken note of the relevant paragraph in the Secretary-General's report. That is heartening. But what followed was very disheartening. Yes, there is a Simla Agreement between Pakistan and India. The Simla Agreement does not preclude discussion or deliberation of this issue in international forums. There are Security Council resolutions - numerous Security Council resolutions - which mandate that the final disposition of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute should be in accordance with the wishes of the people, through a free and impartial plebiscite under the auspices of the United Nations. So the Simla Agreement is not restrictive. As a matter of fact, it was one of the efforts made by Pakistan in good faith to solve this problem.

I would also like to point out that the Simla Agreement was signed in 1972. Twenty-one years have passed. Has India once, just once, seriously proposed discussing the Jammu and Kashmir issue under the Simla Agreement? Yes, it has been making statements to the press; it has been using it for propaganda purposes; but has it ever discussed or proposed discussing this issue under the Simla Agreement? Pakistan has indeed proposed discussing this issue under the Simla Agreement, but India rejected that overture from Pakistan.

Another allegation: We should "eschew terrorism". Well, we are not indulging in terrorism. It is India which is indulging in the worst kind of terrorism, the kind called State terrorism. And it is suppressing and subjugating a territory which does not belong to it. That territory is under its unlawful occupation, as recognized by the United Nations, as recognized by the international community - as recognized by India itself. It should read the Security Council documents again: it should also go back and read the resolution of 5 January 1949 which solemnizes the agreement between Pakistan and India to make all necessary arrangements for holding a free and impartial plebiscite. Where has that commitment gone? Are Indians becoming a victim of growing amnesia? Are they forgetting their commitments? Or is this a deliberate tactic to confuse international opinion?

They are surprised and dismayed that what Pakistan is doing is "engineering". But it is not "engineering"; it is a call from Pakistan, and it is our right to make that call, in the light of what is happening in Kashmir, the gruesome tragedy that is taking place in Kashmir. Some 40,000 people have been killed; women have been raped by security forces with impunity - in certain cases with wantonness - as a part of their well-conceived strategy to terrorize people into submission. Is this being "engineered" by Pakistan? If anybody is the author of the situation, it is India, not Pakistan.

Then they say that Pakistan has said, in one of its non-papers, which were circulated, that Pakistan's present Government is fully capable of, but is not interested in, dialogue with India. Well, they must read their own non-paper, which preceded our non-paper; in it, they said that Pakistan had an interim Government and that therefore it was not appropriate for India to enter into negotiations with that Government. We clarified the fact that our interim Government, like all other Governments, is competent to take up this issue.

Then they talk about "subversion and terrorism". For God's sake, we must be honest about this. The worst practices of terrorism are committed by India itself. I have the facts and figures, but because of the lateness of the hour I will not go into them. But I can enumerate 20 training camps concentrated along the Pakistan-India border, which are training terrorists and sending them across to Pakistan. They have been involved in 101 terrorist activities: bomb explosions, arson. What they are doing in Kashmir they also want to do in Pakistan.

The PRESIDENT: We are well beyond the closing time, but the representative of India wishes to speak again. I call on him, with the appeal that he, too, be as brief as possible.

Mr. ANSARI (India): Thank you, Sir. I do not know the punishment in criminal law for the offence of flogging, but that is what the delegation of Pakistan have inflicted on this Assembly. They flog an argument without sustaining it. They indulge in what logicians call systematically misleading expressions.

They tell us not the time and date on which the Government of Pakistan implemented part II A of the resolution adopted on 13 August 1948 by the United

Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) - a resolution so often and so selectively cited by them. They explain not how part III of the same resolution could ever have been implemented without the completion of the total withdrawal of Pakistani troops from Jammu and Kashmir, as stipulated in part II. They reveal not how the pulsation of time and space, and the movement of the chariot of history itself, could have been stalled.

Above all, they explain not the annexation to Pakistan of a part of Jammu and Kashmir known as the Northern Areas, for which they were indicted by one of their own high courts very recently - in March this year. They admit not their own culpability and tax, instead, the credulity of this Assembly. They do take too much for granted.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of Pakistan wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply. I call on him, and appeal to him to be brief.

Mr. KHAN (Pakistan): The Assembly must have been impressed by the sophistry of the Indian representative's presentation, but not by the strength of his argument, because the allegation that Pakistan was somehow responsible for the non-implementation of the UNCIP resolution in question is false and unsubstantiated.

Let me remind the representative of India that the question of demilitarization applied to Jammu and Kashmir territory as a whole and not to Azad Jammu and Kashmir alone. Pakistan did comply with the provisions spelled out in the Security Council resolutions, but when the time came for the withdrawal of Indian forces, India wriggled out of its commitment, offering many excuses. Sir Owen Dixon, the United Nations Mediator, was constrained to report that India was insisting on conditions that made the holding of a free and impartial plebiscite impossible.

India also frustrated the efforts of Mr. Graham, the successor of Sir Owen Dixon, aimed at the withdrawal of the bulk of Indian forces. India was not interested in a plebiscite and it was determined to hold on to Kashmir. Towards the end of 1950, India, in contravention of the Security Council resolutions, took steps towards the total integration of Kashmir by convening the so-called Constituent Assembly. Thus, right from the beginning it was India that stalled the implementation of the Security Council resolutions by turning down all proposals for the demilitarization of Jammu and Kashmir, which would have paved the way for a plebiscite.

As for the Northern Areas, I would like to tell the representative of India and this Assembly that the Northern Areas have not been annexed to Azad Kashmir or to Pakistan. As a matter of fact, they have a special status. We are ready for a plebiscite today, and we are ready to make appropriate administrative arrangements as and when defined by the Security Council, if India is ready.

The representative of India's reference to the High Court judgement is out of context and has no bearing on the question of the holding of a plebiscite in the whole of Kashmir. Are they trying to suggest that the right of self-determination is to be exercised only in Azad Kashmir, in one part of Pakistan, and that India is not going to allow it to be exercised in occupied Kashmir? This is illogical, to say the least.

The PRESIDENT: It is customary for the Assembly to take note of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization. If I hear no objection, may I consider that the Assembly wishes to take note of the report?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 10.

The meeting rose at 1.45 p.m.

United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

32nd PLENARY MEETING

Tuesday, 19 October 1993 at 10 a.m.

NEW YORK

President: INSANALLY (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 10:20

AGENDA ITEM 47

COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1955

(a) REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS (A/48/48)

(b) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.7)

(c) DRAFT DECISION (A/48/48, sect. III)

The PRESIDENT: I now request the Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, Her Excellency Mrs. Lucille Mathurin Mair of Jamaica, to introduce the report of the Preparatory Committee.

Mrs. MATHURIN MAIR (Jamaica), Rapporteur of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations: It is my pleasure and honour to present the report of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, contained in document A/48/48.

Section I of this report, "Background and introduction", reminds us that at the 76th plenary meeting of the forty-sixth session, the General Assembly decided on the recommendation of the General Committee to include in the agenda of its forty-sixth session this item, "Commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995". The General Assembly subsequently adopted a decision (46/472), by which it established a Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, consisting of the members of the General Committee and open to the participation of all Member States, and entrusted the Preparatory Committee with the task of considering and recommending to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session proposals for suitable activities in connection with the observance of the fiftieth anniversary. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in December 1992, considered the first report of the Preparatory Committee (A/47/48). The General Assembly at that time took note of the work of the Committee in 1992 and mandated the Preparatory Committee to continue its work and report to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session. The present report as submitted in response to that decision.

The Preparatory Committee has held five meetings - in February, March, April, May and June. At a particularly important meeting on 22 February 1993, the Committee had before it a note by the Chairman (A/AC.240/1993/L.4), which elaborated on the organization of the work of the Committee, as well as the substantive issues requiring its consideration. This note provided a useful basis for the further deliberations of the Committee, subsequently updated in a draft annotated agenda (A/AC.240/1993/L.5) in March 1993, which was approved.

At its 3rd and 4th meetings in the course of this year, the Committee gave consideration to the basic principles which should be applied in the organization of the fiftieth anniversary and agreed on the following: that the United Nations activities in connection with the fiftieth anniversary should be, to the extent possible, universal in

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character and in keeping with the universality of the membership of the United Nations; that there should be a clear allocation of functions and activities between the United Nations system and Member States, to ensure that there was no duplication; that a suitable climax to the fiftieth anniversary would need to be identified, and that the climax should have universal importance, be enduring in its effect and have a suitable symbolic value; and also that activities should be conducted in and made available in all official languages.

On the subject of the theme of the anniversary, the Committee devoted a considerable amount of time and effort to reaching agreement. The common focus of the proposals made was the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental concepts that it expressed. It was also stressed that the theme should be forward-looking and that it should be widely relevant. The theme proposed by the Secretary-General, "We the peoples", did receive considerable support from delegations; there was, however, a majority view that it needed to be extended and made more specific. Following extensive deliberations, a consensus was reached in the Committee on the following theme for the anniversary: "We the Peoples of the United Nations ... United for a Better World". This was accepted as an appropriate expression of the theme of the fiftieth anniversary.

The preparation of a declaration and the establishment of a drafting group were important activities of the Preparatory Committee. It was proposed at a meeting in March that there should be an open-ended drafting group established to prepare a solemn declaration to mark the observance of the anniversary. That declaration should reaffirm adherence by Member States to the principles of the Charter and should guide the Organization's work for the future. That proposal was adopted without dissent. However, there were differences of opinion on when the drafting group should begin its work. Some felt that it would be premature to begin work on a text at that early stage, when it might be overtaken by events and have to be revised later. Others felt that the work should begin immediately, as time was needed to reflect on elements to be included in the declaration. Following discussion, and on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Committee, it was agreed that the work of the drafting group should take place in two phases: consideration of conceptual issues, in the first instance, to be followed by drafting at a later stage. As a result, the 1st meeting of the open-ended drafting group was held on 22 June 1993, when the conceptual framework for the declaration was discussed.

The action by Member States, including the establishment of national committees, was a major concern of the Preparatory Committee. The Chairman referred in this connection to a note which was sent by the Secretary-General to all Permanent Representatives, drawing attention to the importance of establishing national committees for the fiftieth anniversary to provide a channel for each country's activities with regard to the anniversary.

As paragraph 10 of the report before us indicates, the Secretary-General has received information from a number of States - the 13 here listed - in which national committees have been established, and there are other Member States that have established their intention to establish national committees. The committee wishes to congratulate and encourage those Member States and hopes that others will soon establish national committees.

Also following a request by the Committee, the Secretariat had prepared a paper entitled "Status of the commemorative programme" (A/AC.240/1993/CRP.5). This list compiled by the Secretariat of proposed events and activities was aimed at fostering projects with a global component and outreach that were awaiting funding. The list was divided into three main categories: first, communication/education projects that would promote awareness of the history, structure and functions of the United Nations, increase grass-roots support of the Organization, improve world-wide education about it and highlight the full range of issues on the Organization's agenda; secondly, commemorative projects, which would review past achievements of the United Nations with a view to promoting its future; and thirdly, celebratory events. The Secretariat, as the Committee was informed, had reviewed and evaluated approximately 180 unsolicited proposals. Some met the key criteria for evaluation (particularly the extent to which a particular project furthered the purposes of the United Nations, educated and informed the public, and was self-funding), and these were in the process of development. Much of the programme is still in the planning stage, and few national programmes had been initiated, so it was considered premature to discuss these in detail at this time.

A very important aspect of the preparatory work for the fiftieth anniversary consists of the activities within the United Nations system, as discussed in paragraph 12 of the report.

The Committee noted that the Secretary-General attached great significance to the system-wide nature of the anniversary, particularly since several of the specialized agencies and other organs would also celebrate their own

anniversaries in or around 1995. It was agreed that within the context of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary, an extraordinary opportunity existed to highlight the mutually reinforcing goals of the United Nations and its sister organizations, and it was also noted that these issues were being coordinated through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) and focal points at the working level. The Committee continues to monitor this aspect with interest and requests that it be kept informed of further developments in that regard.

The role of non-governmental organizations is also perceived by the Preparatory Committee as a very important element. The fiftieth anniversary should be a broad-based and popular commemoration. It was therefore agreed to encourage the participation of non-governmental organizations to the greatest extent possible, both at the national and at the global levels. These organizations could provide valuable communication and information networks for the fiftieth anniversary as links between the United Nations and its world-wide constituencies. The Committee further agreed that non-governmental organizations could participate in its meetings under the rules governing their participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council.

With regard to financial and administrative issues, the Committee has been informed that the financial situation of the Organization precludes making funds available from the regular budget. The Secretary-General has therefore established for that purpose a Trust Fund for the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations and urges Member States to support that initiative. Support is also being sought from the private sector, including a limited number of global sponsors and international licensees.

In addition to funding for commemorative programmes, the need for adequate secretarial support was discussed by the Committee at several meetings. It was agreed that it is essential to the effective functioning and proper management of the fiftieth anniversary that its secretariat be assured of adequate staff and related resources. The Chairman of the Committee has been requested to raise this concern, this very important need, with the Secretary-General, as appropriate.

Finally, the Preparatory Committee wishes to place before the General Assembly, and to recommend for adoption, the following draft decision, as contained in paragraph 16 of the report. It reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Having considered the report of the Preparatory Committee for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations (A/48/48),

"Takes note of the work of the Preparatory Committee for the fiftieth anniversary in 1993, including the decision that the theme for the commemoration be 'We the Peoples of the United Nations ... United for a Better World' and that an open-ended drafting group be established to prepare a declaration to be adopted in 1995 to mark the anniversary,

"Decides that the Preparatory Committee should continue its work and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session." (*A/48/48, para. 16*)

Annexed to this report is the list of the relevant documentation.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, Mr. Richard Butler of Australia, who will introduce draft resolution A/48/L.7 in the course of his statement.

Mr. BUTLER (Australia), Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations: May I begin by expressing my deep appreciation as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee to all those delegations that have worked so hard during the last year to ensure that our work of preparation for a great event in 1995 has started well and that there have been real achievements. I want to thank too Her Excellency the Ambassador of Jamaica for the splendid work she has done today in introducing to the Assembly the report of the Preparatory Committee which is proposed today for adoption by the General Assembly.

We are at a turning point. We have had about one year in which to begin the work of preparation for our fiftieth anniversary. We are at a turning point signified by what I hope will be the unanimous adoption today of the report of the Preparatory Committee, contained in the document before the Assembly (A/48/48).

That turning point has four main features. During the past year, we adopted some organizing principles under which we would pursue the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary and mark its importance. Chief among those

principles is that whatever we do should be of universal significance.

We have adopted a theme for the anniversary as a consequence of an extended debate in which we reflected on the purposes and principles of the Organization. In particular, looking into the future, we reflected on what it was that we wanted to say to the world, especially to the youth of the world, that this Organization was about, and we reached agreement on that theme. That was an important decision because it will suffuse all of what we do in 1995 and as we look into the future.

We also agreed to establish a drafting group, open to all Members of the Assembly, in which we would work on the drawing up of a solemn declaration of 1995, submitted to the Heads of State or Government of all Member States, which would add to the celebratory part of 1995 by setting out a series of signposts that would guide the United Nations as it moves towards the twenty-first century.

We also saw the establishment of a special secretariat for the fiftieth anniversary, a secretariat quite properly headed by an Under-Secretary-General, Mrs. Gillian Sorensen, and charged with the task of ensuring that the Secretary-General is properly aware of 1995 and that the activities that we will design for celebration and promulgation of the anniversary have the full engagement of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat of the United Nations.

Those are the four things that we have achieved in the last year; those are the things that mean that we are at a turning point when we adopt this report today, and that we can turn a corner towards 1994 and 1995 - a period in which we must work actively in drafting, a period in which we must spread the message of our theme around the world, a period in which Mrs. Sorensen and her secretariat can begin to set in concrete the celebratory and other aspects of 1995.

In the latter context, may I say that I am aware that there are discussions under way in this House at present about resources for that secretariat. In this connection I would draw attention to paragraph 15 of our draft report, in which the view of Member States is made clear to the effect that the secretariat charged with managing the fiftieth anniversary should be given adequate resources - and I want to underline that today. It is the view of the Committee - and I am sure the Secretary-General is aware of this - that Mrs. Sorensen and her secretariat must be given adequate resources. There is no question in my mind that this can be done from within existing staff establishment - possibly, for example, from the Department of Public Information - so as to ensure that without negative budgetary effects the resources required are allocated to Mrs. Sorensen and her special task.

The report of the Fiftieth Anniversary Committee contains a recommended draft decision in paragraph 16, which our Rapporteur has already introduced. It remains for me simply to say that I commend that draft decision to the Assembly, and I hope that it will adopted unanimously.

There is also a draft resolution before the Assembly in the context of this agenda item. It relates to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Moscow, signed on 30 October 1943. At the last meeting of the Preparatory Committee, it was proposed that a brief commemorative session of the General Assembly should be held on 30 October 1993 in order to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security, adopted in Moscow on 30 October 1943, in which reference was made to the establishment of a general international organization, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States and open to membership by all such States, for the maintenance of international peace and security. The proposal that was made to commemorate that event of 50 years ago was unanimously adopted by the Preparatory Committee.

As a consequence, in our role as Chairman of that Committee, I have submitted, in the name of Australia, a draft resolution, contained in document A/48/L.7, which quite simply calls for the Assembly to commemorate in its plenary meeting on 1 November this year the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security, adopted in Moscow on 30 October 1943. We cannot do this on 30 October because that is a Saturday. The nearest day, therefore, is Monday, 1 November. I propose that this draft resolution, which is in conformity with the expressed wish of the Preparatory Committee, be also adopted unanimously.

I will bring my remarks to a conclusion by expressing again the gratitude that I feel as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the very great interest that all delegations are showing in this work. I would also express the hope that we will have a good 1994, a year that will see an increase in the tempo in which we will begin work on drafting what will be an important declaration for 1995 and a year in which the secretariat for the fiftieth anniversary, properly resourced, should be enabled to continue its planning for a truly historic celebration, in 1995, of the fiftieth anniversary of this Organization.

Mr. RIABIKA (Ukraine) *(interpretation from Russian)*: The United Nations, since its founding in 1945, when States, manifesting their goodwill and the desire to live in peace and friendship, laid the base for a truly universal Organization, has played an ever-greater role in the life of the international community.

For me, as a member of the Parliament of the Republic of Crimea - an integral part of Ukraine - it is gratifying to recall that the decision on the establishment of this universal international Organization to ensure peace and security was adopted at the Crimea Conference, held in Yalta in February 1945.

It is our view that the remaining two years before the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization must be used to the utmost to determine the areas of activity and the role of the Organization for generations to come. It is therefore extremely important that during this period States Members of the United Nations exert maximum efforts for the drafting and implementation of coordinated proposals to reform the Organization and adapt its structures to the demands of the times. The activities of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations are designed to facilitate this process.

The anniversary should be used to disseminate knowledge about the United Nations and the expansion of its activities in order to familiarize the broadest circles of the world's population with the aims and tasks of the United Nations. That, in turn, would promote support for the United Nations in the fulfilment of all of its plans and initiatives.

Taking into account the importance of the upcoming event and also the fact that Ukraine was one of the founders of the United Nations, the President of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, by his order of 18 May 1993 set up the National Committee for the Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations, headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, Anatoly Zlenko. It consists of heads of the leading ministries and governmental institutions, prominent public and political figures, parliamentarians, scientists and representatives of cultural and educational establishments.

In accordance with the recommendations of the United Nations Preparatory Committee, a draft programme of events which will take place at the national level within the framework of the United Nations commemoration was worked out and submitted for the Government's approval. The programme includes, inter alia, the holding in Ukraine, and particularly in the Crimea, of international scientific conferences, concerts, exhibits and cultural and sports events, as well as the issuance of postage stamps dedicated to the fiftieth anniversary. There are also plans for the establishment in Kiev of a memorial park in which, on this occasion, trees will be planted by prominent political and public figures.

The fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations marks a special date in the calendar of international life. Bringing us back once again to the remote past, it prompts us to take a closer look at the world to decide what we can do to make the work of the United Nations more effective in fulfilling those functions and tasks which were allocated to it nearly half a century ago.

It is generally known that not a single historic date is oriented only towards the past. Moreover, the best way to observe the anniversary of turning points of history is to concentrate on unsettled issues, to reassess the existing situation creatively and to outline the prospects for future development.

In this context, we propose the convening, in the framework of the United Nations commemoration, of an international peace summit to summarize the development of the world community in the post-confrontation era and outline the future world order for the next century. The aims of this conference derive from the Secretary-General's report "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277). Those aims include the formulation of the concept of peace and security in the post-confrontation era.

In our view, such a forum should be timed to the Organization's anniversary and organized under the aegis of the United Nations, because the development of contemporary international relations cannot be imagined without this international Organization, whose prestige and reputation are universally recognized as very high.

I should also like to emphasize another important factor in favour of holding such a conference within the United Nations. Only the United Nations has the experience to convene global high-level forums to consider complicated issues and set forth comprehensive approaches. Such meetings could have a great mobilizing effect on world developments, as attested to by the 1992 Conference in Rio de Janeiro. Furthermore, it would seem appropriate in the course of the global international conference to discuss and adopt new proposals and ideas, the realization of which would energize the Organization's activity and give it new impetus.

As never before, we have every reason to see the United Nations as a powerful instrument capable of maintaining international peace and security, strengthening justice and human rights, and ensuring, to quote the United Nations Charter, "social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom". This would correspond to the motto of the commemoration: "We the Peoples of the United Nations ... United for a Better World".

Mr. PIZARRO (Chile) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: In October 1995, the United Nations will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. This will provide an opportunity for retrospection and an analysis of our achievements and failures, and on that basis to conduct a profound assessment of the challenges that lie ahead for this Organization.

In December 1992, the Assembly considered the first report of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. Chile, which is a member of that Committee and has been honoured with a vice-chairmanship, has worked hard to promote this initiative. Similarly, at the national level, work has begun on the basic principles to be applied in organizing this celebration, in the total conviction that the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary offers an extraordinary opportunity for highlighting the importance of the United Nations and the other organizations of the system.

The Government of Chile has studied the note sent by the Secretary-General on 3 February this year, in which he brings to our attention the importance of establishing national committees for the fiftieth anniversary to provide a channel for each country's activities with regard to the anniversary. In that connection, I am pleased to inform the Assembly that the establishment of the national committee in our own country is now being considered from the legal standpoint, and we hope that it will be ready to begin its activities by the end of this year, at the latest. The National Committee will be entrusted with the coordination at the national and international levels of our country's participation in all the activities for the celebration, and will also be in charge of organizing and publicizing all activities to promote awareness of its work.

It has also been considered fundamental to the desired success of this National Committee that it be composed of a broad spectrum of representatives of our principal national organizations. To that purpose, legal provisions stipulate that it be composed of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Relations; the Ministry of Public Education; the Ministry of National Defence; the Ministry of the Secretary-General of the Government; the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation; the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Republic; universities; and the directorships of the library, archives and museums; and that it be open to other institutions that might be invited by the Committee towards the attainment of its goal.

The motto already agreed upon - "We the Peoples of the United Nations ... United for a Better World" - gives us an appropriate framework for the success of this initiative. That is why we support the work of the Preparatory Committee and in particular the various publicity programmes and activities related to the Organization's achievements and potential for the future, so that we might make it a useful tool in the quest for solutions to the most burning problems afflicting the people of the world.

During the general debate, one delegation quite rightly pointed out that the United Nations itself should reflect the principles it advocates. Unfortunately, the reality today does not bear out that assertion. The United Nations has not been able to adapt with the requisite speed to the changes our world is experiencing. That is why work should be done, on a priority basis and with the fiftieth anniversary as a deadline, to achieve the restructuring of the United Nations, an appeal that has resounded through the statements of delegations in the general debate.

Among the reforms that we feel are most urgent is that of the Security Council, with a view to achieving equitable geographical representation. This reform, however, should also make the Council efficient and a model of efficacy for any regional or subregional organization and the peoples of the world in general. At the same time, the other organs of the United Nations system need to proceed along the same lines so that, in all spheres, efficiency and harmonious action become the common denominator.

The convening of the World Summit for Social Development in 1995 will be a key event in the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. In that respect, the chance to discuss the problems of human security - in particular unemployment, poverty and social integration - will be a unique opportunity for placing the human person at the heart of the concerns of the United Nations and, at the same time, demonstrating the significance and global importance of our Organization.

The deep distrust that persists among the protagonists on the international scene, the growing strategic interests that are at stake despite the end of the cold war, the vast economic disparities, the increasing competition for

international prestige, and the crisis of nationalism - all constitute a genuine threat to the security of nations.

At the same time, we note that the world has changed, that bipolarity has ended, that we are heading towards global understandings, that divisive barriers are being eliminated and that States are being recognized without ideological litmus tests. In other words, the world and the United Nations have begun to seek and find modern formulas for understandings between States and innovative solutions for the problems that persist.

Allow me at this point a personal digression. What I have just said is applicable to situations such as Bosnia and Herzegovina, to what is going on in some of the republics of the former Soviet Union, and to the case of China and Taiwan, where being members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and the Asian Development Bank should be a first step in encouraging them to work together in international organizations.

Resolving the questions I have mentioned is the task that lies ahead of the international community, and a duly restructured United Nations must channel its efforts to the attainment of that objective.

As we shall soon celebrate our fiftieth anniversary we must redouble our efforts and strengthen our political will so that by then we shall have modernized and democratized our Organization, in order to enable it to face the challenges before it and focus its action on resolving the political, economic and social problems now threatening humankind. Chile pledges its determination to work from this day forward on that huge task.

Mr. TELLO (Mexico) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: In almost exactly two years the United Nations, shaped by a group of visionary statesmen in 1945, will reach its half century. That important anniversary is a source of special satisfaction for the States that believed from the outset in an international community organized on basic principles of coexistence. It also provides a unique opportunity for thoughtful reflection on the Organization 's achievements and on its future.

The United Nations has come a long way since its founding in San Francisco at the end of the Second World War. In many ways it has exceeded the expectations of the authors of its Charter.

From a strictly quantitative standpoint, we note that membership has more than tripled, as a result of the decolonization process undertaken by the Organization and, more recently, as a consequence of the end of the cold war.

While this aspect is significant, the qualitative changes are in fact more important. United Nations activities are now very wide-ranging - from peace-keeping in various corners of the world to the active promotion of the economic and social development of peoples, and from the protection of human rights to the preservation of the environment. We could say, to paraphrase the philosophers, that there is nothing that touches human beings that is not the concern of the United Nations.

To keep its central role on the international scene, the Organization must respond to change by recognizing its shortcomings and correcting anachronisms.

My delegation welcomes the Preparatory Committee's decision to establish an open-ended drafting group to prepare a solemn declaration to be adopted here on 24 October 1995. Despite the view held by some, we must not waste what little time remains and must start as soon as possible the substantive work that will lead to a document whose content reflects what we expect of the United Nations in the next century.

In Mexico's opinion, that important document could contain three major chapters. The first would examine the ground we have covered in the first 50 years, highlighting the Organization's achievements; the second would be devoted to the problems facing the Organization today; and the third, which would no doubt be the most extensive, would conclude with a look towards the future in order to direct our efforts and those of our successors.

Some have expressed the view in the Preparatory Committee that it would be premature to take pen in hand and begin the drafting, because - they say - of the speed with which changes in the world order are taking place. In my delegation's opinion, they are being prudent to a fault. Any journey, however long and arduous, begins with the first step. We must continue the exchange of views that began a few short months ago and begin to draft a text that we can alter as events require. What we cannot and must not do is to leave everything to the last minute, since waiting so long would doom the declaration to failure.

In accordance with the request of this Assembly, a National Committee charged with the commemoration of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary has already been set up in my country. In view of the importance my Government attaches to this event, it was decided that the Foreign Secretary would chair the Committee, which is

made up of personages from governmental, academic and cultural fields linked to the United Nations. The Mexican Committee has already held two meetings, at which its members thoroughly examined various programmes to disseminate knowledge of the purposes, principles and work of the United Nations in order to make the Mexican people aware of the Organization's activities, and lead them to support those activities.

Measures considered to date include the preparation and publication of books and other materials, the production of radio and television programmes, the organization of seminars and round tables on various subjects, with the participation of Mexican and foreign experts, and the issuance of postage stamps. I shall soon have the privilege of informing the Preparatory Committee of the decisions the Mexican national body will be taking in order to assure the attainment of its objectives.

Mexico is resolutely and enthusiastically planning the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. We are prepared to carry out an exercise in deep reflection, so that this very significant event will not amount merely to expressions of jubilation and formal celebrations. We are determined to continue to cooperate fully with the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee, Ambassador Richard Butler of Australia, and with Under-Secretary-General Gillian Sorensen, with a view to ensuring that the fiftieth anniversary is accorded all the formal and substantive significance that it merits.

Mr. JACOB (India): My delegation attaches importance to the celebrations to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. We have been taking an active part in the meetings of the Preparatory Committee, which is being ably guided by its Chairman, Mr. Richard Butler, the Permanent Representative of Australia. We should like to compliment Under-Secretary-General, Mrs. Gillian Sorensen, who has been assisting the Preparatory Committee efficiently and with devotion. Her wholehearted and receptive approach to the ideas expressed by various delegations augur well for our collective endeavour to make the celebrations successful. The newsletter on the preparations that she has started to publish is really useful.

For our part, we have formed in India a national committee, under the chairmanship of the External Affairs Minister, in connection with the fiftieth-anniversary celebrations. I assure the Assembly that the Government of India and this national committee will do all in their power to ensure that the celebrations are meaningful and successful.

The completion of 50 years of the existence of the United Nations is an occasion for observance - indeed, for celebration. The Organization, by its very existence, has served as an anchor of hope for humanity. Having emerged as a harbinger of peace in a war-ravaged world, it has survived the trials and tribulations of half a century. The United Nations remained a silver lining on the cloudy horizon of the cold war. Today, it has re-emerged as a major actor in international affairs, assuming unprecedented dimensions. The anniversary will be an occasion for helping to shape a new United Nations.

Anniversaries are occasions for celebration as well as for recollection. We certainly should rejoice at the distance travelled. More important, however, is the road ahead, with the ever-receding horizons that beckon us. In our view, the agenda for the fiftieth anniversary celebrations should be closely focused on the Organization's agenda for the future. Exhibitions, television programmes, films and music performances could certainly form a useful backdrop for this wider endeavour, but they should by no means become the be-all and end-all of the exercise. It is my delegation's view that such a conceptual framework would help us to concentrate on furthering the objectives of the United Nations and on the responsibility that it will have to shoulder in the coming decades.

Our own approach to observance of the fiftieth anniversary will be to place emphasis on those activities that can help to enhance the effectiveness of the United Nations, not only as a political body but also as a catalyst for economic and social development. Concerts and exhibitions are useful means of increasing awareness, among the masses, of the United Nations, but of greater importance will be those activities that enhance the Organization's constructive role in world affairs. The occasion should be used to reflect on the achievements of the Organization and to chart a well-defined course for its future. We attach particular importance, in this context, to the activities of specialized agencies, which should formulate programmes, specifically designed for the anniversary, that will reach their targets by 1995. Observance of the anniversary should mark, not only the culmination of the reform process, but also the beginning of new activities that will give the Organization a better image in the world.

Last but not least, it will be important to ensure that the anniversary functions are universal in character, and are seen to be so. Our purpose will be better served if they are dispersed over the globe rather than centred around United Nations Headquarters or confined to a small group

of countries. In our view, the purpose of the exercise should take precedence over procedural constraints relating to organizational and financial arrangements.

During the meetings of the Preparatory Committee, Member States expressed wide-ranging and sometimes differing views on various aspects of the fiftieth-anniversary celebrations. It is our hope that, in the true spirit of our work in the United Nations, the preparatory work will be done after the viewpoints of Member States have been harmonized. With these words, my delegation would like to endorse the draft decision of the General Assembly that the Preparatory Committee should continue its work.

Mr. HAJNOCZI (Austria): Let me begin by thanking Ambassador Butler for his able leadership as Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. After extensive deliberations, the Preparatory Committee has achieved consensus on the theme for the fiftieth anniversary:

> "We the Peoples of the United Nations ... United for a Better World".

The first words of the Charter seem to us to set forth a particularly meaningful theme. "We the peoples" clearly expresses the concept that the United Nations constituency is not limited to Governments - that it is mankind.

We ought to seize the opportunity of this occasion to show to the individual citizen the multiple effects of United Nations activities. The support for the United Nations that we should thereby build in the electorate would be transformed into increased support from Governments.

We should heighten the awareness of programmes sponsored by the United Nations and of the Organization's achievements, deepen knowledge about the Organization, and demonstrate that it reaches out to every individual on the globe.

In a nutshell, the fiftieth anniversary could be the biggest public-relations event for the United Nations system. Therefore, particular emphasis should be laid on cooperation with the media and with the education sector. We want to imbue, not just the adult population, but even more so the next generation with the ideals of the United Nations. Such an approach, which might be called a public-awareness operation, would not put a heavy burden on the United Nations budget. Rather, in our view, would it depend on creativity, initiative and the ability to attract interest in sectors beyond governmental structures.

A well-deserved tribute must be paid to Under-Secretary-General Gillian Sorensen and her predecessor Joseph Verner Reed and their able colleagues in the Secretariat who have been reaching out to the public in their work.

We share their view that the fiftieth anniversary should be commemorated by activities at the global level. Certainly, United Nations Headquarters in New York and United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi offer excellent bases and should be equally used. Likewise, the many United Nations offices in Member States can play a significant role. The celebration of this important anniversary requires a truly system-wide effort.

We expect that many of the activities will be undertaken at national, regional and local level by non-governmental organizations. Therefore the early establishment of national committees is vital to initiate, liaise, focus and coordinate activities.

Austria will actively participate in the drafting of a solemn declaration to mark the observance of the anniversary in 1995. But our idea of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary is not a kind of ceremonial birthday party on 24 October 1995. We prefer a broader perspective, viewing this commemoration as a substantial matter encompassing many activities and major meetings throughout 1995, meetings such as the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference on Women. For what would be the credibility of a solemn reaffirmation of adherence to the principles of the Charter on one day if we did not live up to them every day of the year, by striving, united, for a better world.

Mr. CATARINO (Portugal): Since this is the first time I have had the honour to speak in plenary meeting at this forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, please allow me, Sir, to congratulate you on your election and wish you all the best in the conduct and fulfilment of your duties.

Portugal follows with great interest the work of the United Nations and the constant enlargement of its activities for the benefit of humanity. The sphere of influence of the Organization has increased from day to day, covering areas of the utmost importance, such as peace-keeping operations, economic development and cooperation, environmental action, humanitarian assistance and human rights - to mention but a few of the very

important fields that have a real impact on the well-being of the international community.

In this respect the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations is a special and unique opportunity to portray the work of the Organization and to present a comprehensive picture of our efforts to attain goals to make a better world for us all.

That being so, I should like to inform the Assembly that the Government of Portugal is taking the steps necessary to establish its national committee for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. We hope, therefore, to be in a position in the near future to announce the establishment of our national committee.

Mr. LOVINSKIY (Russian Federation) *(interpretation from Russian)*: The Russian Federation attaches great significance to preparations for celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. We assess very highly the work of the Preparatory Committee for this anniversary, under the leadership of the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations, Ambassador Richard Butler. We also support his recommendations.

The fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations must, in our view, become a compelling reaffirmation of the important role of the Organization in the life of the international community and the dedication of States Members of the United Nations to the full application of the purposes and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter 50 years ago.

In achieving international consensus on fundamental international problems, States are called on fully to make use of and develop the potential of the United Nations. Russian governmental bodies and public opinion have already undertaken preparatory work in connection with this notable event in the life of the international community and a national committee of the Russian Federation is being established.

We believe that it is extremely appropriate that the beginning of the process for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary is taking place at this time. Fifty years ago at the Moscow Conference of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and the United Kingdom, which took place from 19 to 30 October 1943, the concept of the establishment of an international organization for the maintenance of international peace and security was proclaimed for the first time. It was precisely then in that Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security that the Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and China stated the need for the establishment of such an organization based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States and open to membership by all States, large or small.

The delegation of the Russian Federation supports the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Australia in A/48/L.7 and calls for its adoption by consensus.

Mr. ELARABY (Egypt): The Assembly has before it a very thoughtful and comprehensive report of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations. The report reflects, and in depth, the discussions in the Preparatory Committee, which was successfully steered by its very able Chairman, Ambassador Butler of Australia. We are also grateful to Under-Secretary-General Gillian Sorensen and her very able and devoted staff.

As repeatedly stated by most delegations we are looking forward to a commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary which will not be limited to festive celebrations. My delegation is of the view that the fiftieth anniversary provides us with a unique opportunity to reflect on the achievements, the shortcomings and the performance of the United Nations since its establishment.

We should also be able to project into the future and seek to improve and enhance the performance of the United Nations. We would like to consider the challenges that the Organization will encounter in the future and how it will cope with those challenges. What areas should be reformed? What will the United Nations do to meet the challenges of the future?

The founders of our Organization envisaged, through the Charter, a very delicate structure for the United Nations, a structure that survived the ravages of the cold war; now, with the end of the ideological confrontation between East and West, the United Nations has a better opportunity to meet the challenges of the future. Therefore it is only natural to expect that States Members of the Organization will use the fiftieth anniversary to review the balance sheet of the last 50 years and prepare for the future.

Egypt has already established a national committee to prepare for the fiftieth anniversary, and will spare no effort

in contributing to the meaningful success of the commemoration.

Mr. SALMI (Finland): My country agrees with the many representatives who have indicated that the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations will be a special occasion for us, an occasion for reflection, taking stock and also action towards further developing and enhancing the work of our Organization, the better to meet the manifold and ever-increasing needs of the international community.

My delegation has already had the opportunity of participating actively here at Headquarters in the work on the preparation of the anniversary, and I have the pleasure to inform the Assembly that my Government is now taking steps to form a national committee for the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The committee will enjoy leadership at a high-level and will include a very wide spectrum of Finnish society.

The PRESIDENT: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/48/L.7, as well as the draft decision contained in section III of the report of the Preparatory Committee contained in document A/48/48.

Mr. CHEN Jian (China) *(interpretation from Chinese)*: Before the draft decision contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee is adopted, I should like to point out that the Chinese translation of the draft decision contains a language error in the second preambular paragraph, which mentions the theme for the commemoration. The present Chinese text does not fully reflect the spirit and meaning of the original English.

The Chinese Government attaches high importance to the activities for the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary and has established a national committee headed by Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen. The theme of the fiftieth anniversary will be widely publicized in China; therefore, how the English for the theme of the commemoration is reflected in the Chinese text is a major question. I do not wish to hold up the adoption of the theme today; however, with your permission, Mr. President, I should like to conduct consultations with the parties concerned in order to find the proper Chinese wording.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of China for drawing our attention to the deficiency in translation, and I shall avail myself of his undertaking to consult with the Secretariat to ensure that the translation is corrected for any future document.

On that understanding, the Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/48/L.7 as well as the draft decision contained in section III of the report (A/48/48) of the Preparatory Committee.

I now call on the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. SUKHODREV (Director of Security Council and General Assembly Affairs): Under the terms of the draft decision contained in section III of document A/48/48, the General Assembly would, *inter alia*, decide that the Preparatory Committee for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations should continue its work and report thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, and that an open-ended drafting group should be established to prepare a declaration to be adopted in 1995 to mark the anniversary.

It is anticipated that the Preparatory Committee would need to hold 24 meetings during 1994, and these would have to be added to the calendar of conferences. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences for 1994-1995.

However, provisions are made under section 25 of the proposed programme budget for 1994-1995 not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences are consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years.

Consequently, should the General Assembly adopt the draft decision contained in section III of document A/48/48, no additional appropriation would be required under the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

The PRESIDENT: We turn first to draft resolution A/48/L.7, entitled "Fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security".

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/48/L.7?

Draft resolution A/48/L.7 was adopted (resolution 48/6).

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to the draft decision contained in section III of the report of the Preparatory Committee, document A/48/48.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft decision contained in section III of the report (A/48/48) of the Preparatory Committee?

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: Under the terms of the resolution just adopted, the General Assembly will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Four Nations on General Security on Monday, 1 November 1993. I should like to point out that this commemoration will take place in the afternoon as the second item.

We have thus concluded this stage of our consideration of agenda item 47.

AGENDA ITEM 155

ASSISTANCE IN MINE CLEARANCE: DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.5)

The PRESIDENT: The Assembly has before it a draft resolution issued as document A/48/L.5.

I call upon the representative of Belgium to introduce that draft resolution.

Mr. NOTERDAEME (Belgium) *(interpretation from French)*: On 20 August this year the 12 countries members of the European Community requested the inclusion of an additional item in the agenda of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly entitled "Assistance in mine clearance". That item quickly gained broad support within the Organization and among Member States, leading to the formulation of draft resolution A/48/L.5, which I have the honour to introduce to the Assembly today on behalf of the sponsors, of which there are now 88. I ask the indulgence of members as I read out all their names.

The sponsors of draft resolution A/48/L.5 are: Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Latvia, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malawi, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

I should like to thank sincerely all the delegations that have given their support to and contributed to the drafting of this text. The Secretariat, and in particular members of the mine-clearing unit, several United Nations agencies and the International Committee of the Red Cross, have shared their experience with us. We should like to express our deep gratitude to them.

The sponsors are submitting their draft resolution to the Assembly because of the catastrophic situation created by the massive presence of mines and other unexploded devices in countries that have experienced armed conflict.

Under the second preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/48/L.5, the Assembly would express dismay at the high number of victims of mines and other unexploded devices. Each year, such devices indiscriminately kill and injure countless innocent victims, often children, long after weapons have fallen silent.

Under the third, fourth and fifth preambular paragraphs, the Assembly would recall the adverse social and economic consequences of the presence of mines. Vast territories are today unfit for the resumption of economic activities or the return of refugees already sorely tested by conflict. Furthermore, the presence of mines seriously jeopardizes the safety of teams participating in humanitarian missions, peace-keeping and rehabilitation and seriously hampers their action.

In the following preambular paragraphs, the Assembly would recall that in his report "An Agenda for Peace" the Secretary-General had already recognized the growing importance of mine clearance and that the Security Council had fully supported that report in a presidential statement of 26 February 1993. In resolution 47/120 B the General Assembly also recognized the relevance of the Secretary-General's analysis. I would only add that in his latest report on the work of the Organization the Secretary-General states:

> "Of all the tasks involved in setting a nation on a new road to peace and prosperity, perhaps none has the immediate urgency of mine clearance." *(A/48/1, para. 459)*

Further, the inhumane weapons Convention, which of course relates primarily to prevention and humanitarian laws, contains in Protocol II articles calling for international cooperation in the removal of mines.

Under the twelfth to fourteenth preambular paragraphs, the Assembly would note with satisfaction the inclusion in the mandates of several peace-keeping operations of provisions relating to mine clearance and would welcome the establishment within the Secretariat of a coordinated mine-clearance programme. It also commends the activities already undertaken in this connection by the United Nations system, particularly by the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations, the International Committee of the Red Cross and non-governmental organizations.

The operative part of the draft resolution highlights the importance of United Nations coordination of activities designed to facilitate the solution of problems linked by the failure to remove mines.

To achieve such coordination it is necessary to begin by analysing the precise parameters of the problem the United Nations, its agencies, Member States and non-governmental organizations must confront because of mines. Then, an inventory must be drawn up of means, including financial means, available to them in dealing with the problem.

In operative paragraphs 4 and 5, therefore, the Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, before its forty-ninth session, a comprehensive report on the problems caused by the increasing presence of mines and other unexploded devices and on the manner in which the United Nations contribution to the solution of problems relating to mine clearance could be strengthened. That report should also consider the financial aspects of activities related to mine clearance, and in that connection the General Assembly would ask the Secretary-General to consider the advisability of establishing a voluntary trust fund.

If we are to assist the Secretary-General in drawing up his report, many countries must extend their cooperation by providing him with information, data and the views and suggestions of their Governments. That is the purpose of operative paragraph 6.

Draft resolution A/48/L.5, before the General Assembly today, reflects the growing concern of the international community at the devastation caused by mines and other unexploded devices in countries emerging from armed conflict. On behalf of the sponsors, I express the hope that it will be adopted without a vote.

Speaking now on behalf of the European Community and its member States, I pledge our full cooperation in the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General. We hope that will contribute to the creation of an exhaustive chart showing the needs resulting from the presence of mines, and the means available for meeting them.

The European Community and its member States will be following with special attention the follow-up to the Secretary-General's report. In our view, today's draft resolution is but the first stage of a long-term effort. We hope that at its forty-ninth session the General Assembly will continue its deliberations on this item with a view to considering effective, urgent measures to help countries affected by the presence of mines to make progress towards social rehabilitation and economic reconstruction.

Mr. FARHADI (Afghanistan) *(interpretation from French)*: I wish first of all to convey the gratitude of my delegation to the representative of Belgium and to the initial sponsors of draft resolution A/48/L.5, that is the countries members of the European Community, which have themselves assisted many countries in mine-clearance operations.

Afghanistan has joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, and I am addressing the Assembly on this item because my country is in a tragic and, unfortunately, typical situation. In terms of the size of its population, Afghanistan heads the list of countries threatened by the dangers posed by mines. We learn from the report of the Secretary-General of June 1992 that ours is a typical case.

In my country, 45,000 mines have been documented in an area of 25 square kilometres. In all of Afghanistan there are undoubtedly more than 10 million mines. The danger continues even as we meet in this Hall; it is grave. In many villages children are wounded every day as they play on mined ground. That shows how serious the problem is. Soviet military aggression in Afghanistan has ended; the Red Army is no longer on our territory. But, with more than 10 million mines, a latent aggression continues, with its attendant delayed danger of death or

serious injury. This is a case of "delayed aggression", with time-bombs scattered in an unknown pattern invisible to the naked eye. Most wars of aggression end with the withdrawal of the aggressor, with a cease-fire, with a document, or with a hand-shake before the cameras. But this kind of aggression persists after the conclusion of peace.

In the general debate, at the 24th meeting, on 11 October, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan stressed the importance of this problem, and noted my delegation's support for a draft resolution on this item. Those are the reasons why Afghanistan has joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

I am grateful to the representative of Belgium also for having clarified a number of points that are made only between the lines of the draft resolution but that appear to have been clear in the minds of the initial sponsors. Should the draft resolution be adopted today - I hope without a vote - my delegation will be satisfied with the text as it stands. But if the initial sponsors wish to have suggestions for possibly important improvements and additions, it would be better to take note of these.

Among those points, let me note that it is not only human beings that are threatened by mines. Domestic animals, notably the cattle used for agricultural and other work, and wild animals can be gravely injured and could die from the effects of their wounds. This should certainly be of interest to the United Nations.

Since the Second World War, technology has made progress, in this case, unfortunately, with harmful consequences for mankind. Mines from the First World War were easily found, as they were made of metal, but most of today's mines are made of plastics, which are terribly difficult to detect. That is why mine clearance is an extremely important specialization in today's armies and ministries of defence.

A very important point that is not clear in the draft resolution is that the presence of mines militates against the return of war refugees, who wish to return now that the war has ended. But when they learn from those who have already returned that children have been injured when they stepped on mines, they are no longer so eager to return voluntarily.

The question of reconstruction and rehabilitation has been mentioned. This is particularly important in agriculture at three stages: sowing, irrigation - so important for developing countries where there is little rainfall - and the harvest. At each stage there is a danger for farmers - and for their wives and children, who are generally involved in these tasks, particularly in the harvest - of severe injury, or even death, because of lack of medical treatment. Those who are seriously injured are at the mercy of all types of infections and gangrene, which can be fatal.

In other areas, such as the reconstruction of roads, and other means of communication - above all, in the so-called war-stricken countries, a sad new term - Afghanistan is again at the top of the list.

If additions are to be made to the draft resolution, at the very least the question of returning war refugees to their homes should be included in the preamble. An important item should also be added to the operative part: an urgent appeal to countries able to assist those most seriously threatened by mines to undertake mine-clearance programmes, including the training of local sappers. Afghanistan has already received such assistance from many countries represented here, including Australia, which assisted in the training of local personnel for mine clearance, personnel who have done a great deal and are still at work. The Afghanistan operation is still huge, however, and we hope soon to receive expanded, concrete assistance, including assistance from Australia, which, for budgetary reasons, I believe, ceased for a time.

We hope to see the draft resolution adopted without a vote, by acclamation, under your presidency, Sir. I assure you that among the resolutions we shall be adopting in this manner this one will indeed be historic.

Mr. SUCHARIPA (Austria) (*interpretation from French*): Austria welcomes the initiative of the European Community in having the question "Assistance in mine clearance" added to the agenda. We are pleased to be co-authors of the draft resolution with that title, which has just been introduced by the Permanent Representative of Belgium, and of course we hope that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus.

The Austrian delegation is extremely alarmed by the growing presence of mines and other unexploded devices in territories devastated by armed conflicts. The presence in the ground of these mines, long after hostilities have ended, is a grave obstacle to the restoration of peace and the return to normal productive daily life.

It is often those in the most disadvantaged sector of the population who run the greatest risk of being wounded, killed or permanently disfigured by mines. They are often

forced by the economic constraints from which they suffer to return to areas that are unsafe because of the continued presence of mines. The representative of Afghanistan, in a very relevant statement, has just addressed this specific problem.

The intense suffering inflicted on the very high number of victims of mines, primarily among the civilian population, is an unacceptable affront to the conscience of mankind. The number of incidents involving children is particularly appalling.

We know, to cite only one example, that in Cambodia 200 to 300 men, women and children are torn apart by mines every month. For those who lose an arm, a leg or their sight, for those who are otherwise severely wounded by the explosion of one of the 4 million to 7 million mines still remaining in Cambodia, peace has not yet arrived. They may never be able fully to enjoy the results of peace in their country. Statistics on the number of mines in various regions are horrifying: 9 million to 10 million in Afghanistan; 9 million in Angola; 5 million to 10 million in Iraq; 5 million in Kuwait; 1 million to 2 million in Western Sahara; 1 million to 2 million in Mozambique; 1 million in Somalia; and 1 million in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The letter (A/48/490) dated 8 October 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia addressed to the Secretary-General reminds us that the problem of land mines also affects countries in central Europe. It states that there are some 3 million mines in Croatia. It is clear that the country's reconstruction will be greatly slowed by this unresolved problem.

In our opinion, the international community should make every effort to strengthen cooperation to deal more effectively with the problem of land mines. In this context, the Foreign Ministry and the Defence Ministry of the Republic of Austria supported a symposium organized last May by an Austrian concern on the subject of mine clearance as it relates to the challenge of repatriation and rehabilitation. The symposium brought together military and civilian experts on mine clearance, political analysts and representatives of relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

In their conclusions, the participants emphasized the importance of mine clearance for the success of all repatriation and rehabilitation programmes. They also emphasized that mine-clearance activities require careful preparation and training and that medical supplies for those involved should be given the highest priority. The participants also noted the imperative need to accompany mine clearance operations with education programmes for the local population. The symposium recommended the establishment of a central repository for information and technical databases.

We thank Mr. Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, for having so often emphasized the urgency of the problem of land mines. We welcome the establishment within the Secretariat of a coordinated mine-clearance programme, with the participation of the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and other competent bodies. We note with satisfaction the inclusion in the mandate of several peace-keeping operations of provisions relating to mine clearance. We are following very closely the efforts made by the International Committee of the Red Cross concerning the problem of land mines.

The international community explicitly recognized the horrendous nature of land-mines by concluding the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and in particular the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II). Austria has ratified the Convention and the Protocol. We urge all countries that have not yet ratified the Convention to accede to it as soon as possible.

We believe also that the possibility of a moratorium on the export of land-mines should be carefully considered.

In this context, we have noted with interest the convening by the Secretary-General of a review conference to amend the aforementioned Convention and in particular its Protocol II. In our view, it would be a good idea to view this review conference as a forum for obtaining greater adherence. It would also provide an opportunity to build on existing legal norms in order to find more effective solutions to the problem of the indiscriminate use of land-mines, which are mutilating men, women and children all over the globe.

Those were the comments the Austrian delegation wished to make at this stage of our deliberations.

Mr. INDERFURTH (United States of America): Uncleared land-mines are a major source of human tragedy as well as of regional instability. The United States Government estimates that there are more than 85 million uncleared land-mines scattered in 62 countries throughout the world. The number is growing each day.

Approximately 150 people - most of them civilians - are killed or injured each week by land-mines. Land-mines are also a regional destabilizing force. They hinder economic reconstruction and development, inhibit the return of refugees and create a source of chaos in countries striving for political stability.

The United States urges the world community to turn its attention to this problem now. It must be addressed from two sides. First, we need to remove or neutralize those mines already laid. Secondly, we must cut the flow of new mines. The United States Government is pleased to co-sponsor this draft resolution, which invites Member States and non-governmental organizations to provide de-mining assistance, and which asks the Secretary-General to consider establishing a voluntary fund for training and other activities related to de-mining.

We also note that, in addition to this draft resolution addressing mine removal, two draft resolutions relating to land-mines are being submitted in the First Committee. This year the United States plans to submit a draft resolution that calls for a world-wide moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines - those which pose a grave danger to civilian populations. In addition, we expect that the annual resolution on the conventional weapons Convention will include a paragraph calling for a review conference to consider, among other things, aspects of the Convention relating to anti-personnel land-mines.

Last year the United States Government began a unilateral moratorium on the export of anti-personnel land-mines. The United States Senate recently passed unanimously a three-year extension of that moratorium. We expect the House of Representatives to vote on that issue shortly. We urge all Member States to join my Government in support of these efforts to rid the world of land-mines, both by regulating their export and by developing de-mining assistance and training programmes around the world.

Mr. MARUYAMA (Japan): I should like first of all to express my Government's appreciation to the countries members of the European Community for taking the lead in promoting the inclusion on the agenda of this new item, "Assistance in mine clearance", which is certain to help draw the attention of the world to a most pressing problem.

It has been said that the indiscriminate maiming of innocent people by land-mines left undetonated and unretrieved after a period of civil conflict is an affront to the international conscience. Many tens of millions of mines are thought to remain scattered around countries that have been the scene of such conflict, and they are taking a toll in human life. They continue to be a major impediment to the smooth delivery of humanitarian assistance to those in need even after hostilities cease. Not only do they represent a constant threat to the lives of civilians: they also hamper the repatriation of refugees and resettlement of displaced persons, thus affecting activities at all stages, from relief to development, of the process by which a country strives to restore itself to health after a conflict comes to an end.

In "An Agenda for Peace" the Secretary-General addresses the problem of land-mines and their terrible consequences, emphasizing the urgency of mine clearance for any nation setting off on the road to peace and reconstruction. At its last session, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolution 47/120 B, which endorses as useful the proposals he made in this area. My Government fully subscribes to those proposals and considers that de-mining efforts should also be emphasized in the terms of reference of peace-keeping operations.

In his annual Report on the work of the Organization (A/48/1), the Secretary-General also stated that the United Nations has launched a concerted drive to address this issue by mobilizing the competent organs of the system. Mine-clearing operations are already in place in Afghanistan and Cambodia, and in such countries as Angola, Somalia and the former Yugoslavia, where they are part of peace-keeping and humanitarian efforts. My Government is very much encouraged by the report of the Secretary-General and the specific steps he has taken.

For its part, Japan has contributed to de-mining operations in Somalia and Afghanistan by extending $0.2 million and $14 million, respectively. This is indeed a matter of grave humanitarian concern to my country.

Speaking for the European Community, the representative of Belgium has urged that a more comprehensive programme of action for mine clearance be established under United Nations auspices, especially in light of the difficulties such operations have experienced in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Mozambique. Mine-clearing is a labor-intensive and long-term undertaking, which requires ample resources, good planning and technical know-how to ensure the desired outcome. The principal responsibility for mine clearance rests with the country in whose territory the mines are located, but a concerted effort on the part of the international community to support these operations is also essential.

Draft resolution A/48/L.5 contains several valid arguments and constructive proposals, particularly those underlining the importance of United Nations led coordination of mine-clearance activities and the need to improve the effectiveness of activities in the field. It is my Government's view that, while the priority accorded mine clearance may change over time, and with it responsibility for a given operation, effectiveness and cost-efficiency must be maintained. To this end, my Government requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive report that will put this broad subject in perspective for us and provide common ground for a coherent programme.

Japan supports this draft resolution, proposed by the member countries of the European Community, and joins them in sponsoring it.

Mr. KOROMA (Sierra Leone): When the Foreign Secretary of my country addressed this Assembly last month, he expressed the strong concern of the Sierra Leone delegation over the proliferation in the use of mines and other such explosive devices in areas of conflict, especially in intra-State conflicts.

Against the background of the Liberian conflict, we in Sierra Leone have been victims on two fronts: first, having to cope with the spill-over effects of that conflict; and, secondly, dealing with a war imposed on us by one of the factions in the conflict for allowing our country to be used as a base for the peace-keeping operation in Liberia, one of whose main features has been the killing and maiming of civilians and the disruption of meaningful socio-economic activity through the planting of land-mines. Those weapons, planted in a primitive and imprecise manner, have proved deadly for our citizens, and those who have survived have been left in appalling conditions. Unexploded mines have made the task of post-war reconstruction complicated and all the more difficult for my country.

Indeed, to quote the Secretary-General in his report to the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly on the work of the Organization:

> "Of all the tasks involved in setting a nation on a new road to peace and prosperity, perhaps none has the immediate urgency of mine clearance". (*A/48/1, para. 459*)

And he went on:

> "no attempt to restore a sense of community and security can succeed without effective land-mine removal". (*ibid.*)

The Secretary-General's comments could not be more true. The grim statistics - which in many instances are at best inaccurate assumptions - paint an alarming picture, one in which the increased use of these anti-personnel devices has serious consequences far beyond their military objectives. They now claim as victims more civilian non-combatants on all continents. Recent figures showing approximately 50 million land-mines in 10 countries around the world are, in our view, conservative and do not take into account fully their use in situations of conflict of a non-international character. Sierra Leone wishes to take note of the establishment of a coordinated mine-clearance programme within the Secretariat which, we hope, will serve as a clearing-house for training and technical facilities for Member States in this area.

For societies like mine, whose economies are already weakened, this activity imposes an unacceptably high strain on medical facilities which are already inadequate. The indiscriminate and very often unrecorded planting of land-mines in areas of generally high economic potential - such as farming, grazing and mining areas - ensures that the post-conflict resumption of economic activity and commerce is hindered considerably. The consequences of this are obvious. That is why we believe that the initiative of the European Community to inscribe this item on assistance in mine clearance on this session's agenda could not have been more timely. It thus brings to the attention of the international community the need to take concrete steps in dealing with this scourge, which the International Committee of the Red Cross has described as an active menace used to terrorize populations with the goal of denying access to land.

My delegation sees draft resolution A/48/L.5, which we have co-sponsored, as a first step in encouraging a coordinated approach on the part of the United Nations to the issue of mine clearance, especially through the provision of resources, training, technical assistance and the establishment of humanitarian, social and economic programmes to enable Member States so afflicted to embark on mine clearance and to rehabilitate the victims for their reintegration into society.

Beyond that, however, there must, in our view, be unequivocal action by the international community to outlaw the production, sale and use of these devices which, by their indiscriminate spreading of death and severe maiming, have no place in civilized society.

Sierra Leone therefore fully supports the draft resolution and looks forward to the appropriate follow-up action on it.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): The consideration of the issue of mine clearance by the General Assembly is a welcome development. The problems posed by the indiscriminate laying of millions of mines in many parts of the world are now of such great magnitude that they can only be resolved by the concerted action of the entire international community.

The techniques of mine-laying as well as the nature of land-mines themselves have undergone changes which have had the most horrendous consequences. Mines are no longer deployed in localized areas as tactical battlefield weapons. Instead, they are carpeted over vast stretches of land, the apparent objective being to strike terror among civilians and to empty territory. Many of the most tragic victims of such mines are children who are maimed for the rest of their lives.

The question arises as to what course of action should be adopted by the world community. We are of the view that a series of steps should be taken in three areas: measures to impart training and know-how to affected countries; measures to improve mine-clearance technology; and, finally, measures to strengthen the legal norms regarding the use of mines.

Most of the countries that are affected by the problem of uncleared minefields lack the expertise to clear and neutralize unexploded mines. The United Nations agencies and the Member States can be of immense help by setting up institutional mechanisms for the exchange of information and know-how, as well in the training of personnel in mine-clearance techniques. In this regard, we greatly appreciate the measures taken by the European Community to strengthen the mine-clearing capabilities of affected countries.

As regards technology, attention needs to be given to two separate aspects. Studies should be conducted with a view to evolving more efficient and modern techniques for clearing mines and unexploded devices from large areas. Present mine-clearing tools, which have been described by scientists as "glorified farm implements", are clearly inadequate for the task. Secondly, there is a need to consider the desirability of ensuring that all mines have built-in mechanisms for rendering them inactive after a certain period.

It is necessary, also, to take steps to strengthen the legal sanctions against the indiscriminate use of land mines. Stricter rules should be formulated to compel armies to record the locations of mines so that they can be removed after the cessation of hostilities. Carpet mining, the dropping of mines from aeroplanes and other methods of scattering mines indiscriminately must be prohibited. Also, a ban on the use of mines that have a disproportionate effect on the civilian population, especially anti-personnel mines, needs to be considered.

There is, furthermore, a need for inflicting penalties on the parties responsible for the indiscriminate use of land mines. The principle of "abuser pays" is relevant in this context and should be applied forcefully. Those who sow the mines should be made to reap the consequences of paying for their removal and destruction. It is also our view that the affected parties should not be asked to bear the immense and prolonged costs of rehabilitating a maimed and injured populace. Rather, the costs should be borne by the countries that resort to such inhuman forms of warfare.

We are of the opinion that these legal measures can be considered in a review Conference of the 1980 Convention prohibiting the use of inhuman weapons - especially Protocol II of this Convention regarding the use of mines, booby traps and other devices. We, of course, support the moves being made to convene such a conference in the near future. We also pay a tribute to the work being done by the International Committee of the Red Cross on this subject.

Pakistan will continue to take a keen interest in this issue. As Member States are well aware, we ourselves are affected seriously by the fallout from the land-mine warfare conducted by the Soviet Army against Afghanistan. Our medical resources have been stretched thin in an effort to treat and rehabilitate the thousands of Afghans who have been crippled by mines. We continue to host, even today, a million and a half Afghan refugees, who, quite understandably, are not in a position to return to their mine-strewn homeland. All efforts for the reconstruction and rebuilding of Afghanistan, and for the resettlement of its people, are bound to fail until the problem of mine-clearance is addressed and resolved. Pakistan is committed to contributing all that it can to the resolution of this problem. We expect the international community's active assistance in this task.

Mr. VILCHEZ ASHER (Nicaragua) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: On behalf of the Central American countries, I wish to emphasize the particular importance

our countries attach to this item, which was introduced so generously by the members of the European Community.

It is estimated that at the present time there are more than 100 million land-mines scattered in more than 60 countries. The seriousness and the cruelty of the indiscriminate use of mines without any type of controls or any appropriate registry of their location, as recommended by international law, have not respected any border. In areas reaching from Afghanistan to Cambodia and Ethiopia, in Kuwait, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Peru and the former Republic of Yugoslavia, to mention just a few examples, the spectre of human suffering is enormous, encompassing thousands of persons killed or maimed and damage to the national infrastructure. Especially cruel is the odious practice of disguising these lethal weapons as toys, thus endangering the lives of the most innocent.

In the case of Nicaragua, for instance, it is estimated that some 160,000 mines resulting from the conflict of the past decade have not yet been located. A similar situation prevails in other countries of Central America.

According to statistics of the International Committee of the Red Cross, 23 per cent of those killed by mine explosions in Afghanistan and Cambodia were children. In Kabul, 50 per cent were women and children. In Somalia, 74.6 per cent of the victims of mines were children between the ages of 5 and 15. Given this serious situation, the United Nations and the various human rights groups and international organizations have alerted the international community to the devastating effects of the use of mines, since these are used not only for military purposes but also with the objective of breaking down the operational capacity and the morale of the enemy, affecting mainly the defenceless civilian population.

The political, economic and social crisis in Central America, which reached a high point in the 1980s, impeded development in the countries of the region, worsened the poverty levels, intensified the arms race, and resulted in 300,000 deaths and 2 million refugees and displaced persons. All of this had a direct impact on hundreds of Central American families because of the violence, which was the common denominator of the crisis.

The number of victims of war in Nicaragua alone amounts to more than 100,000, of whom 16,000 persons are incapacitated, many of them as a result of mine explosions. Most of these are young people, women and children, for whose sake the Government has undertaken various initiatives and is making great efforts to generate employment or produce benefits. Our countries, which for more than a decade have suffered the effects of war, can on the basis of their own experience bear witness to the tragic situation confronting any country with broad geographical regions that have been mined.

As far as mine clearance is concerned, Nicaragua has thus far enjoyed the cooperation of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Defense Board and that of friendly countries. We have concluded the preparatory, preliminary stage of mine-clearing and have trained officials and members of the army of our country in mine destruction. This project is being duly implemented, thus removing the danger from areas that are needed for agriculture and for livestock. None the less, further efforts are necessary.

Resolution 47/56, on the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and in particular on the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, is of particular importance for our countries. We ought in future to avoid completely the use of mines, and in this way remove serious obstacles which prolong the effects of war even in times of peace.

In this connection, it is of great importance to our countries that peace-keeping operations include in their mandate, once peace has been achieved, the destruction of arms as well as the removal of mines, which in most cases continue to cause the loss of innocent human lives even after the achievement of peace. The Central American countries support the proposal made by the Secretary-General in his report "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277): in the chapter on post-conflict peace-building, he underscores the importance of removing mines from those countries that are victims of conflict because of the harmful effects of the presence of mines and other unexploded devices.

In Central America, the presence of mines and other explosive devices has claimed many victims. Not only are their effects a risk to the civilian population but they also significantly hinder the recovery and reconstruction of the economy and the establishment of normalcy in civilian society.

We agree with the Secretary-General that of all the tasks involved in setting a nation on a new road to peace and prosperity, perhaps none has the immediate urgency of mine clearance, and that no attempt to restore a sense of community and security can succeed without effective

land-mine removal. For the Central American countries, this is a task that cannot be put off.

We are convinced that in all countries that are victims of armed conflicts the main responsibility for mine clearance falls to the State where the mines were laid. But we must take into account the enormous, priority tasks facing countries - most of them developing countries - that, like Nicaragua, have been devastated by the effects of war; after long years of conflict, they have to make great efforts to achieve reconciliation and economic and social development, and they do not have the necessary technical and financial resources to carry out complete mine clearance.

It has been estimated that it will be several decades before the millions of mines can be cleared; Mr. Jan Eliasson, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, has said that the experts estimate that it may take 40 or 50 years for the spectre of minefields to be laid to rest. Therefore, we think it both urgent and timely for the Assembly to adopt the draft resolution (A/48/L.5) on assistance in mine clearance. Our delegations are in complete agreement over both the meaning and the scope of this document.

Of particular importance is the establishment of a voluntary trust fund to support information and training programmes relating to mine clearance activities. Our delegations nevertheless consider that the work still to be done is very complex, and that it is therefore vital for the United Nations, with the support of the international community, to expand its mine clearance assistance programmes.

Accordingly, the United Nations must give priority to ensuring humanitarian assistance and transit for refugees, tightening up coordination between the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and peace-keeping operations and thoroughly considering various ways to enhance resources for programmes that fund mine clearance. It should also gather information and collate work on researching and analysing the existing legal instruments, with a view to adapting them to the new international realities.

Mr. AYALA LASSO (Ecuador) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: The delegation of Ecuador welcomes the initiative of the States members of the European Community and by the Nordic countries in proposing to the Assembly, in draft resolution A/48/L.5, that a series of actions should be taken by the international community to deal with the serious problem of the mines that have been laid in various parts of the world.

Bodies within the United Nations system, and many others, both intergovernmental and private, have been taking measures to cooperate with States facing the tragic situation caused by the matter which we are now discussing. If the draft resolution is adopted, we are convinced that those efforts can be coordinated properly and that the valuable experience of States and other entities involved can be put, in a flexible, timely and effective manner, at the service of those who need it most.

The figures speak for themselves. Estimates of the number of mines to be cleared range from 100 million to 200 million, scattered all over the world: Afghanistan, Guatemala, Cambodia, Mozambique, Laos, Somalia and elsewhere. This is a menace to the civilian population in many regions. However, statistics about the victims are scarce. Suffice it to say that for every survivor there are two deaths. Of the survivors, about three out of four require amputations. In the affected countries, two people per thousand have been hurt by these devices, and in some countries - Somalia, for example - over 70 per cent of the wounded are children under 15.

Just a few minutes ago, the representative of Nicaragua reminded us of the statements in this connection by Nicaragua's Foreign Minister, who speaks of the huge task it will be to get rid of 160,000 mines in 800 different places, of which some 200 are unknown. According to official accounts, Nicaragua has one mine for every 30 people.

Ecuador, faithful to its humanist and humanitarian principles, cannot remain indifferent in the face of this terrifying situation, and has therefore decided to support the draft resolution, as we consider it a step in the right direction. However, we believe that in preparing the report, requested in paragraph 5, on the feasibility of establishing a fund to finance mine clearance programmes, the Secretary-General should take into account the special responsibility of the countries that produce and export such devices.

According to a report by the International Committee of the Red Cross, one State alone has an annual turnover of $168 million in cluster mine systems, including anti-personnel components. The opportunities opening up on the international markets for these new mine systems are prompting many companies to invest in developing new technologies, which are not only boosting profits in one sector of the arms market, but are also improving the mines to prevent their removal and destruction.

Although this is a subject that will be dealt with in due course by the First Committee, which is responsible for disarmament matters, I believe that when financial mechanisms for mine clearance are being worked out those that benefit financially from selling mines should shoulder their responsibility and contribute to financing programmes to eliminate this menace to the civilian population. Taking a small margin from their profits would make it possible to carry out this humanitarian task, and would have two advantages: for one thing, it would avoid having to impose a further burden of contributions on countries that are increasingly reluctant to allocate funds for international cooperation; for another, it would point clearly to where legal responsibility - not only the moral responsibility - for this universal problem lies.

Similarly, in drafting the report requested in the draft resolution, the Secretary-General will have to take into account the specific obligations, under the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices, of States that have laid mines.

We therefore urge Member States to take these considerations into account when they draft their responses to the Secretary-General, and we request the Secretary-General to design and propose appropriate mechanisms for putting those suggestions into practice, in an effective manner, in implementation of the draft resolution, which we are convinced will be adopted overwhelmingly today.

Mr. NOBILO (Croatia): I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the presidency of the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session and to compliment you on your achievements thus far.

I should also like to commend the European Community for undertaking the valuable initiative of having the item "Assistance in mine clearance" included on the Agenda. This item is of far-reaching importance to post-war reconstruction and peace-building measures in troubled areas around the world.

From Cambodia and Afghanistan to Mozambique and Croatia, 150 precious human lives are lost each week, not at the hands of ruthless snipers or the impact of intentionally fired mortars, but because of well-camouflaged land-mines. The United Nations Secretariat estimates that 62 countries are infested with nearly 100 million land mines. The Republic of Croatia is one of those countries. At present in Croatia 300,000 hectares of land have been seeded with nearly 3 million mines and 1 million hectares contain various kinds of other explosive devices.

The minefields on Croatian territory are not only seriously jeopardizing the security of the people living in the area; mines are also inflicting a heavy burden on the Croatian economy. Therefore, my Government has been forced to undertake a programme to free its land of explosive devices. Unfortunately this task is very hard to carry out, especially since we have limited resources and insufficient equipment. Furthermore, Croatia has witnessed the passage of two harvest cycles which have left massive amounts of foliage and ground vegetation, impairing normal visibility, which can be vital to detection. These complications on the ground also create optimal conditions for accidental detonation, further threatening the lives of civilians and specially trained mine-clearing personnel.

Croatia, facing as it does economic hardships, and considering the great financial and technological requirements for a programme of land-mine clearance, is incapable of solving the problem singlehandedly, although it is trying to extract from its own programme the maximum benefits possible. At present the Croatian Government is accommodating 270,000 displaced persons and well over 280,000 refugees from the neighbouring Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to funding humanitarian assistance for half a million people, Croatia is struggling with heavy economic losses and industrial decay as a result of devastating Serbian aggression. The presence of land mines has caused an annual loss of $230 million in the agricultural sector alone and an additional $70 million has been lost in forestry and hunting. Because of these conditions, 330,000 hectares of land sits unworked.

A comprehensive international programme for assistance in mine clearance is an important step in the overall process of the reconstruction of countries in the post-conflict phase. In applying the mine-clearing programme to each country, specific circumstances must be reconsidered, and not only from the geographical or technical point of view. For Croatia such a programme would ease economic recovery and the reinstatement of a secure and normal living environment, facilitate the return of refugees and displaced persons, alleviate transportation and communication barriers, safeguard civilians and United Nations personnel and facilitate the reintegration of the United Nations protected areas into the Republic of Croatia.

Mines pose a continuous threat to the lives and security of United Nations personnel serving in peace-

keeping missions. They restrict the movement of United Nations forces, whether they are delivering humanitarian aid or keeping the peace in hostile areas. This is an additional, but important, reason why the question of "Assistance in mine clearance" must have its place on the United Nations agenda.

The Republic of Croatia co-sponsored the draft resolution before the General Assembly, in the sincere hope that the results of our discussion today will soon be visible in the areas which at present, because of mines, have been turned into "killing fields".

Mr. KEATING (New Zealand): Land mines are an insidious scourge. They are killing and maiming people, particularly civilians, in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe.

New Zealand joins earlier speakers in expressing deep concern about the devastating effects that randomly laid, uncharted and uncleared land mines are having on civilians in countries such as Cambodia, Mozambique and the former Yugoslavia.

In addition to their devastating impact on individuals who come in contact with them, land mines have very harmful social and economic effects. Uncleared land mines laid in fields, forests and watercourses prevent the growing of food and crops, the raising of livestock and the rehabilitation of land. These weapons are denying civilians in war-ravaged areas the right to social and economic recovery.

The United Nations's peace-keeping operations are also affected, and in some cases threatened, by land mines which jeopardize the safety of peace-keeping personnel.

New Zealand fully supports the call for a comprehensive programme of assistance with mine clearance. For us, this is not merely an item of theoretical interest. New Zealand peace-keepers have witnessed the devastating effects of land mines during numerous United Nations operations in countries such as Afghanistan and the former Yugoslavia, and have themselves suffered casualties from these weapons. New Zealand has contributed over the years to the mine-clearance training programme in Afghanistan.

De-mining is also an important part of New Zealand's contribution to United Nations efforts to rehabilitate parts of Cambodia. New Zealand personnel are working with other peace-keepers involved in the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) process to establish the Cambodian Mine Action Centre. The Centre controls de-mining operations, mine awareness and education programmes in Cambodia, and it is expected that the Cambodian Government will soon take over the operation.

Controls on the use of land mines are few. The only specific multilateral agreement controlling the use of land mines is Protocol II of what is commonly known as the inhumane weapons Convention.

The Convention itself is a significant document, but States parties need to address some serious weaknesses which limit its effectiveness, particularly in regard to Protocol II. For example, while it calls for the clearance of land mines after a conflict ends, no verification mechanism exists for ensuring compliance. Also, in cases where non-compliance is clear, the Convention lacks any enforcement provisions. New Zealand therefore supports the call for a review conference which will seek to strengthen the Convention by considering these issues. Such a conference should concentrate with the utmost urgency on the issue of land mines and make effective controls on these weapons its first priority.

In order to make plain our abhorrence of the effects of land mines and to become fully engaged in the review conference process, New Zealand has ratified the Convention. We urge others to do the same. We note that it seems likely that the review conference will be held in 1995, which should give signatories plenty of opportunity to ratify.

In the meantime, until the review gets under way, we would encourage dialogue on land-mines issues between interested States, and we support proposals to establish a group of experts to facilitate discussions in the run-up to the conference.

The use of land-mines by States is not the only problem. A further issue of concern is that land-mines have in recent times been used in conflicts not only by States but also by groups that are not able to be represented at the United Nations negotiating table. Some type of effective control must also be put on the use of land-mines by groups that could not become a party to any convention.

Such an issue can be addressed by examining the trade in land-mines and adopting measures to limit or prevent their supply. In this context, New Zealand acknowledges the unilateral actions of the United States

and France in placing moratoriums on the transfer of land mines.

New Zealand considers the random, widespread use of land-mines and the effect they are having on civilians to be a problem of the gravest concern. We must work together to foster controls on the use of these weapons.

New Zealand is already working with other countries under the auspices of the United Nations, and we shall continue to provide what assistance we can on practical mine clearance when that is needed.

New Zealand therefore wholeheartedly supports the present draft resolution, which seeks to encourage, organize and coordinate national, regional and global assistance on mine clearance.

Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand): My delegation welcomes the opportunity to participate in these deliberations on the new and important agenda item on mine clearance. We have heard many delegations stress the importance of this issue, in regard to which a draft resolution is before us.

In his report on the work of the Organization, which we considered just last week, the Secretary-General stressed the importance of mine-clearing. He stated that

> "Of all the tasks involved in setting a nation on a new road to peace and prosperity, perhaps none has the immediate urgency of mine clearance". *(A/48/1, para. 459)*

In his report he mentions the situation in Afghanistan, Angola, Cambodia, Mozambique, Somalia and the former Yugoslavia, saying:

> "Tens of millions of mines have been left in areas of conflict". *(ibid.)*

The presence of mines is a major obstacle to human resettlement, the restoration of transport infrastructure and, indeed, socio-economic recovery. The Secretary-General concluded that no attempt to restore a sense of community and security can succeed without effective land-mine removal.

We also welcome the Secretary-General's launching of a coordinated programme of action on mine clearance involving the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and other competent bodies.

The Secretary-General has reported that in Afghanistan at least 10 million mines were left behind after the recent war. These remaining uncleared mines continue to hinder seriously the restoration of normal life in many parts of that country. The Secretary-General also mentions in his report the successful use of mine-detecting dogs. Thailand is proud to have participated in this effort. Mine-detecting dog teams from the Royal Thai Army were involved not only in the actual mine clearance but also in the training of local mine-clearing dog teams.

In Cambodia, where the country is entering a new phase of national reconciliation and rehabilitation following the successful holding of general elections and the establishment of a new Government, a number of challenging obstacles and problems remain to be overcome. Of high priority is the question of the resettlement of thousands of displaced persons and demobilized soldiers. These people, Cambodia's most valuable human assets, should be able to return to their villages, lead their lives in normalcy and thus contribute to the strengthening of the country's economy. Unfortunately, resettlement has proved difficult, since a large part of Cambodia was mined during the decade-long armed conflict. According to the Secretary-General, approximately 5 million mines are spread all over the eastern districts. For this very reason, we view de-mining as one of the essential prerequisites in Cambodia's reconstruction process. Failure to carry this out would jeopardize thousands of lives and put the safety of the international personnel involved in humanitarian and development assistance in constant danger.

It has also been said that the war in Cambodia may have been the first in history in which more people were killed by mines than by any other type of armament. Even now the people of Cambodia are still, tragically, dying or losing their limbs at the rate of 200 to 300 a month because of some 4 million land-mines left behind. Sadly, such a situation exists not only in Cambodia but also in Angola, Afghanistan, Mozambique and elsewhere. My delegation therefore joins in urging the international community not to be oblivious to the importance of the issue of mine-clearance and to assist these countries in an endeavour which, taking into account the millions of mines involved, may last for decades.

On its part, Thailand has dispatched two engineering battalions to Cambodia to assist in mine clearance and highway rehabilitation - one battalion as part of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) and the other as part of our bilateral assistance to Cambodia - in addition to other forms of bilateral assistance in human-resources development. I do not wish to overstate

Thailand's contribution; yet, however token it may seem, it clearly demonstrates our willingness to lend assistance where possible and whenever required. Indeed, Thailand is prepared to continue rendering the necessary assistance, as we have done in the past, be it in the area of infrastructure development or in human-resources development.

My delegation wishes to congratulate Belgium and the European Community, the original sponsors of this important and timely item, for bringing it to the attention of the General Assembly. We support the draft resolution before us, and have joined in sponsoring it. We look forward to the Secretary-General's comprehensive report, which he has been requested to submit prior to the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly. We are also of the view that the possibility of establishing a voluntary trust fund for mine clearance should be explored.

My delegation joins in expressing the hope that the draft resolution before us will enjoy the widest possible support.

Prince SISOWATH SIRIRATH (Cambodia): First of all, my delegation would like to express sincere thanks to the European Community and various other friendly countries for taking the initiative of introducing draft resolution A/48/L.5, entitled "Assistance in mine clearance", under agenda item 155.

Cambodia has supposedly closed a 21-year chapter of the horrors of war, but the Cambodian people continue to suffer a relentless series of man-made disasters from the massive number of land-mines that were planted all over our country's fields during the war. Today, as a cease-fire takes effect thanks to the Paris Peace Agreement of 23 October 1991, and as peace once again reigns in the country, thousands of mines are still found along footpaths, in rice paddies and riverbeds and around villages and hamlets.

The people of my country refer to land-mines as "eternal sentinels" which never sleep and are always ready to strike. Unless these mines are cleared and destroyed, they will continue to kill innocent civilians well into the twenty-first century. Unlike bombs or artillery shells, which are specially designed to explode when they approach or hit their target, land-mines lie dormant until a person, a vehicle or an animal triggers their firing mechanism. These land-mines are blind weapons that cannot distinguish between a soldier and a civilian. They recognize no peace treaty or cease-fire. They will continue to exist long after the war is over; they will maim or kill the children and grandchildren of the soldiers who laid them.

In war or in peace, military personnel injured by land-mines stand a better chance of receiving prompt medical care than civilians. As we all know, foot soldiers usually travel in groups and carry first-aid and communication equipment. They can always radio their military bases or camps for help. On the other hand, few, if any, civilians caught in or near war zones have access to rapid-evacuation facilities. The civilians most likely to encounter land-mines are the rural poor who live far from towns or cities and who have access to no proper medical facilities. The poor peasants looking for wood and food or tilling their fields are particularly at risk. Children herding livestock are likewise extremely vulnerable. And, sometimes, children attracted by the unfamiliar and unaware of the hazard, play with mines, which they think are toys, with devastating results.

Even when civilians injured by land-mines reach medical facilities, they often fail to receive proper care because X-ray film, anaesthetics, surgical equipment and antibiotics are unavailable or in short supply. In general, the victims of land-mines are more likely to require amputations than victims wounded by other munitions.

Just last week, my Government, under the premiership of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh and His Excellency Mr. Hun Sen, addressed a letter to the Secretary-General on the critical problem of land-mines in Cambodia. They said that the mine problem in Cambodia at present is horrendous and is a major barrier to growth, development and safety. Mines kill or maim more than 300 Cambodians a month; they deny access to land on which to grow food and resettle displaced persons; they place a tremendous burden on an already limited infrastructure; and they deny Cambodians their basic right to a safe environment.

Cambodia, with a population of over 9 million, already has the highest percentage of physically disabled inhabitants of any country in the world. There are now over 40,000 amputees in Cambodia as a result of injury from mines. Most of the casualties have been civilian peasants who stepped on mines while gathering firewood, harvesting rice, herding animals or fishing. Nearly as many have died from loss of blood, undiscovered in the fields, or have succumbed to their wounds because no transport was available to get them to medical help.

Most amputees, when cured, leave hospital with little hope for the future. Cambodia is an agrarian country and

needs the muscle power of every able-bodied citizen for its survival. Our agriculture is very labour-intensive and requires the participation of everyone. A person who is physically disabled can become a burden to the family, becoming someone who eats but does not produce anything. I am saddened to report to the Assembly that after 21 years of war and suffering Cambodia still has no rehabilitation centres and no laws that can protect disabled persons against discrimination or exploitation.

But in the new Constitution promulgated by His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia, on 24 September 1993, the Royal Cambodian Government has set as a priority the creation of rehabilitation centres for disabled persons to help them adjust to their new life and prevent them from becoming beggars or petty criminals. Many amputees, unable to find work, nowadays drift to the capital city of Phnom Penh or to other large towns and become a burden to the Government and an unpleasant sight for visitors and Cambodians alike.

My delegation knows that the problem of land mines is not a problem in Cambodia alone, but that the same situation is found also in Afghanistan, Angola, Lebanon, Somalia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, countries which have been so devastated by long conflicts and wars.

My delegation is deeply grateful to the non-governmental organizations, such as Cambodia Trust of Great Britain, the Indochina Project and many others, and in particular to Handicap International, the Belgian-based humanitarian organization that has 13 prosthetics workshops throughout Cambodia; these organizations have helped in the rehabilitation of disabled Cambodians, victims of land-mines.

My delegation wishes to bring to the attention of the representatives here the problem of land-mines which lie scattered throughout Cambodia, and requests the ongoing help and cooperation of the international community to remove as many of them as possible.

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia will officially end its duty in Cambodia on 15 November 1993. The international staff will have left Cambodia by then, and no advisers will be available to assist the Cambodians with safety, technical matters, logistics, communications and finances and to liaison with the United Nations Cambodia Mine Action Centre's de-mining trust fund. De-mining operations so far as we know, will no longer function as of 1 November 1993.

United Nations assistance is required immediately if a timely remedy is to be found. Bilateral solutions have been proposed and investigated, but that process will take months; the Cambodia Mine Action Centre will wither and a major effort will be required to start it again.

A solution to the problem of land-mines in Cambodia is required urgently. It appears that the only solution for continuing the de-mining is an extension of remaining international staff at the Cambodia Mine Action Centre for a period of 60 days while all issues are resolved.

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia has accomplished so much by setting up the Cambodian Mine Action Centre, and it would make no sense to allow it to close for lack of a small international advisory group. The Cambodian Mine Action Centre has so far cleared over 3,800,000 square meters of mine fields. This dangerous task requires a sizeable budget for special equipment for the next five to ten years. My delegation hopes that the international community can help make Cambodia safe for present and future generations.

Given the importance attached by many concerned countries to this critical issue, my delegation urges the support of the international community in obtaining their help and cooperation. My delegation is also fully aware of the significant participation by the international community in responding to the problem of land-mines in Cambodia, and we are profoundly grateful to those who have reacted in an extremely positive manner and indicated their willingness to continue helping Cambodia recover from this terrible nightmare.

It is in this context that my delegation is pleased to co-sponsor draft resolution A/48/L.5, entitled "Assistance in mine clearance", under agenda item 155.

Mr. ELHOUDERI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*interpretation from Arabic*): The areas which at one time or another were theatres of military operations and in whose soil large numbers of land-mines were planted have continued to be a grave source of fear and anxiety. On the one hand, this existence of land-mines continues to impede economic development and obstruct every effort to limit degradation of the environment. For a long time now, the General Assembly has been demonstrating its awareness of the devastating effects of land-mines by adopting numerous resolutions on the issue, the latest being resolution 40/197. In those resolutions, the Assembly highlighted the dangers resulting from the presence of the material remnants of war, especially land-mines, because of loss of life,

destruction of property and grave obstruction of efforts aimed at land reclamation and reconstruction.

The Secretary-General, in his report "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277), accorded considerable attention to the problem of land-mines. He emphasized the urgent need for de-mining because of the danger land-mines pose to people's lives and the adverse effects they have on economic activity especially in the areas of reviving agriculture and road building. In discussing "An Agenda for Peace" in the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, my delegation thanked the Secretary-General for dealing with this problem, and particularly for his emphasis on the need to address the grave problem of land-mines which remain scattered in many areas of past hostilities as is the case with regard to my country which was one of the theatres of military operations in the Second World War. Large numbers of land-mines were planted in our soil during that war. Mine explosions have resulted in the loss of thousands of lives and the continued presence of minefields still obstructs our efforts to combat drought and desertification and hampers our attempts to promote land reclamation.

My delegation welcomes the fact that the General Assembly has agreed to inscribe an item on the agenda of this session entitled "Assistance in mine clearance". By the same token, my delegation welcomes the draft resolution under this item which is contained in document A/48/L.5 as the contents of the draft address some of our concerns, particularly in its reference to paragraph 58 of "An Agenda for Peace", which deals with the problems arising from land-mines in present or former combat zones. We had hoped for a clear explicit reference to this problem in the draft resolution. By the same token, we believe that the draft resolution should have taken into consideration some of the other aspects of the problem of land-mines by calling upon the States responsible for planting those land-mines to submit all the necessary information and technical assistance required in mine clearance activities as well as payment of compensation for the damage caused to States in whose soil land mines were planted as was previously called for in the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and other bodies and organizations, such as the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations Development Programme.

While expressing its position *vis-à-vis* the problem of land mines and how to deal with their collateral effects, our delegation hopes that the resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly in this regard will contribute to solving this problem. In this connection, my delegation wishes to emphasize in particular the contents of operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, which urges all Member States to extend full assistance and cooperation to the Secretary-General in this respect and to provide him with any information and data which would be useful in drawing up the report he will submit to the next session of the General Assembly.

Ms. TREIMANIS (Latvia): I am speaking on behalf of Estonia, Lithuania and my own country, Latvia.

We welcome the initiative of the European community in proposing the inclusion of the item entitled "Assistance in mine clearance" in the agenda of the General Assembly. We should like to emphasize that mine clearance is a necessary component of peace-building, since it assists in establishing the conditions for lasting peace in areas of conflict and tension. We share the concern about the serious humanitarian, social, economic and ecological destruction which can and will be caused by the failure to remove mines, as well as the harm caused by remaining minefields to the civilian population and peace-keeping missions in countries stricken by armed conflict. Assistance in mine clearance is of crucial importance to these countries, as they lack the necessary resources to clear the huge minefields left by armed conflict. This matter is not the business of the affected countries alone, but a subject of concern for all States, as the security of every region is in the interest of each and every member of the world community. We believe that the work in mine clearing should be pursued on the basis of a programme of the United Nations and in cooperation with regional organizations. Such a programme would provide the necessary assistance to launch the clearance operations as well as provide relevant information and training programmes to all countries.

It is appropriate to point out that this assistance be provided not only to countries that have recently experienced civil strife and war but also to countries that are undergoing the transition caused by recent major political changes. The Baltic States are facing this problem as part of the consequence of the illegal presence of the foreign military forces on their sovereign soil. Those forces have abused our soil and are leaving behind considerable acreage with large numbers of unexploded devices. There are also numerous ammunition depots which need clearance.

There are many sites in the Baltic States which are extremely dangerous. In Latvia there are more than 42,000 hectares of territory that need clearance and that contain an estimated 24,000 unexploded devices. It would take Latvia, with its limited technical knowledge and personnel

resources, 30 years to clear these sites. Many of the depots and armaments date back to the Second World War. The lack of necessary technical and personnel resources to carry out successfully the clearance of sites creates a potential danger for the civilian population and prohibits the recovery of any land for peaceful agricultural purposes.

We are co-sponsoring the draft resolution, "Assistance in mine clearance", guided by the conviction that the successful implementation of the text to be adopted will contribute to the promotion of peace and security in the world, save lives and help promote a speedier recovery of the affected lands for peaceful purposes.

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item. The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/48/L.5.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/48/L.5?

Draft resolution A/48/L.5 was adopted (resolution 48/7).

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Cuba, who wishes to explain his delegation's position. May I recall that such explanations are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. RIVERO (Cuba) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: My delegation wishes to explain its position on draft resolution A/48/L.5, which was submitted under agenda item 155 by the delegations of the European Economic Community and others, and which is entitled "Assistance in mine clearance."

My delegation associates itself with those delegations that have expressed concern about the effects of the existence of minefields on the civilian population in countries that have experienced armed conflicts, and it associates itself with the need to proceed to clear such areas. In light of those considerations Cuba participated actively in the Conference held under United Nations auspices in the early 1980s, which resulted in the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and its three Protocols, one of which deals specifically with mines.

In addition, my delegation recognizes that the need for mine-clearing operations has taken on greater urgency in recent years owing to conflicts that have taken place recently, and that various actions have been taken by international and non-governmental organizations in this regard. None the less, although my delegation has joined in the consensus on the draft resolution because it shares the humanitarian spirit that inspires it, we do wish to place on record a few considerations of a political and technical nature that we view as important.

First, the question of mine clearance is one of the subjects considered in the Secretary-General's report, "An Agenda for Peace," and on which negotiations have been held and certain decisions reached. My delegation feels it is inappropriate to extract specific matters from the body of subjects and proposals in "An Agenda for Peace" on which decisions have been taken, since such a practice may lead to a proliferation of resolutions that could seriously complicate our work and lead to possible confusion.

Secondly, any consideration of the conduct of mine-clearing activities should take place within the framework of General Assembly resolution 47/120 B, which, as has been recalled, stresses that post-conflict peace-building activities can only be undertaken once the conflicts have been ended, and must be agreed upon by the parties or carried out on the basis of agreements ending conflicts.

Thirdly, there is a balanced reference in the draft resolution to the serious threat that mines and other unexploded devices constitute to the safety, the health and the lives of personnel participating in humanitarian, peace-keeping and rehabilitation operations, as well as among civilian populations.

Fourthly, the terms of the consideration requested from the Secretary-General of the financial aspects of activities related to mine clearance are very ambiguous. My delegation is of the view that such activities should be financed by a voluntary trust fund and that consideration should also be given - as the delegation of Ecuador has pointed out - to financing of such activities by the countries that produce and export mines. In any event, information and training programmes and mine-clearing activities in general should be totally financed by such a fund.

Fifthly, the draft resolution tends to establish a mechanism that we view as parallel to the mechanism provided for in Article 9 of the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices to the 1980 Convention to which I referred earlier, which includes the modalities for international cooperation

in mine-clearance. Article 8 of that Protocol refers to the protection of United Nations forces or missions from the effects of minefields.

Lastly, we consider it somewhat contradictory that today, when efforts are being made to achieve what has been called the rationalization of our work, this draft resolution, which refers basically to mines, is being submitted to the General Assembly when we are aware that two additional draft resolutions dealing with mines will also be submitted to the First Committee, one aimed at establishing a moratorium on the export of antipersonnel mines and the other aimed at convening a review conference on the 1980 Convention with a view to possible modifications with regard to mines. My delegation believes that this matter should have been considered in an integrated way in a single forum, namely, the First Committee, in a text that could have dealt with the question in all its aspects.

The PRESIDENT: Since no other delegation wishes to speak, may I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 155?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 1.40 p.m.

United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

33rd PLENARY MEETING

Thursday, 21 October 1993 at 10 a.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. INSANALLY (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 15

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

(b) ELECTION OF EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT: This morning the General Assembly will proceed to the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose term of office expires on 31 December 1993. The 18 outgoing members are: Argentina, Austria, Botswana, Chile, France, Germany, Guinea, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Peru, Somalia, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

I should like to remind members of the Assembly that, as of 1 January 1994, the following States will continue to be represented on the Economic and Social Council: Angola, Australia, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, Gabon, India, Italy, Kuwait, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Zaire.

The names of those 36 States should therefore not appear on the ballot.

According to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 2847 (XXVI) of 20 December 1971, and taking into account the number of States which will remain members of the Council after 1 January 1994, the 18 members should be elected as follows: five from African States; three from Asian States; one from Eastern European States; four from Latin American and Caribbean States; and five from Western European and other States. The ballot papers reflect that pattern.

I should like to inform the Assembly that the candidates, not exceeding the number of seats to be filled, receiving the greatest number of votes and a two-thirds majority of those present and voting will be declared elected. In the case of a tie vote for a remaining seat, there will be a restricted ballot limited to those candidates which have obtained an equal number of votes.

May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to that procedure?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with rule 92 of the rules of procedure, the election shall be held by secret ballot, and there shall be no nominations.

I shall now call upon representatives who wish to make statements before we proceed to the election.

Mr. GHAFOORZAI (Afghanistan): Membership of the Economic and Social Council is important, mainly for the following two reasons. First, contributing to the activities of different organs of the Organization is part of

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the collective and Charter responsibilities of each Member State, in order to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all people. Secondly, it is through membership of such organs that a Member State can bring to the attention of the relevant Department in the United Nations system its particular needs relating to the promotion of social and economic programmes and a better standard of life for its people.

Afghanistan, after 14 years of foreign domination and occupation, is once again taking its place in this international forum and is trying to participate actively in the activities of the Organization. We consider that to be our Charter obligation.

With regard to our particular problems and needs at this very critical stage of our life as a war-stricken country, we want to bring to the attention of the relevant organs of the Organization, including the Economic and Social Council, the particular needs of the Afghan nation, whose destruction in the past 14 years of war may not have a parallel in history. In addition to losing 1.5 million of its population, our country has lost its total economic infrastructure and is faced with enormous economic, social, cultural, educational, health and other multifaceted problems that have been left us as a legacy of the former Soviet Union's aggression against our homeland.

Moreover, to ensure a balance in the representation of interest groups in the Economic and Social Council, Afghanistan concluded that membership of the Council would appropriately ensure representation of the least developed and land-locked developing countries.

For these reasons, we submitted our candidature for membership of the Economic and Social Council. However, it was not convenient for the Group of Asian States to be unable to arrive at an agreed slate and accordingly for there to be contesting candidates. The delegation of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in a spirit of accommodation and to facilitate the process of election of the Asian candidates for membership of the Economic and Social Council, has decided to withdraw this year. It is our earnest expectation that Member States will give favourable consideration to Afghanistan's renewed candidature for 1995-1996.

Mr. SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic) *(interpretation from Arabic)*: Notwithstanding the generous support for our candidature to membership on the Economic and Social Council, which we deeply appreciate, my delegation should like to announce that it does not insist on its candidature for this year and that it wishes to postpone it till next year out of a desire to maintain the unity of the Group of Asian States and in response to the kind efforts exerted by the Asian Group's Chairman to arrive at a list of candidatures that agrees with the slate for the Group.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of Zimbabwe, as Chairman of the Group of African States.

Mr. MUMBENGEGWI (Zimbabwe): My Head of State, President Robert Gabriel Mugabe, has already expressed our pleasure at seeing you, Sir, preside over the affairs of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Allow me, nevertheless, the honour and privilege, as Chairman of the Group of African States for the month of October, to reiterate his sentiments.

The Economic and Social Council offers one of the best forums for constructive international dialogue and cooperation on the economic and social issues affecting our regions and peoples. The violent upheavals and conflicts that bedevil nations and regions are often to a large extent manifestations of more deeply embedded economic and social maladies. Thus, the interrelationship between peace and socio-economic well-being cannot be overemphasized.

It is our hope that the awaited report from the Secretary-General on an agenda for development will give the necessary impetus to the promotion of international cooperation for social and economic advancement. The African Group is ready to participate fully and constructively to that end in the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to present the candidatures of Egypt, Ghana, Senegal, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe for election to the Economic and Social Council. All these countries have been fully endorsed by the African Group. On behalf of the Group, I commend those five countries to the General Assembly for its consideration.

The PRESIDENT: I now call upon the representative of Indonesia, as Chairman of the Group of Asian States.

Mr. WISNUMURTI (Indonesia): As Chairman of the Asian Group for the month of October 1993, having heard the statements of the representatives of Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic, I should like to inform the Assembly that the following countries have decided to withdraw their candidatures: Afghanistan, the Democratic

People's Republic of Korea, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates.

I should like to inform the Assembly that, despite the gracious gestures of the countries I have just mentioned, the Asian Group, regrettably, could not achieve an agreed slate. The declared candidates from the Asian Group in the elections to the Economic and Social Council for the period 1994-1996 are therefore as follows: Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of the Russian Federation, as Chairman of the Group of Eastern European States.

Mr. VORONTSOV (Russian Federation) *(interpretation from Russian)*: As Chairman of the Eastern European Group, I should like to inform the Assembly that the Group has endorsed the candidacy of Bulgaria for membership of the Economic and Social Council, in the post to be filled by our Group. We are convinced that Bulgaria's participation will enhance the practical effects of the work of the Council, which will be undertaking major tasks resulting from the new geopolitical and economic realities.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of Cuba, as Chairman of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Mr. ZAMORA (Cuba) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: The Latin American and Caribbean Group has always attached great importance to the work of the Economic and Social Council. As Chairman of the Group for the month of October, I have the honour to inform the Assembly that for the four positions to be filled from our region the Group has endorsed the candidacies of Chile, Costa Rica, Paraguay and Venezuela.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on the representative of New Zealand, as Chairman of the Group of Western European and Other States.

Mr. KEATING (New Zealand): I am very pleased, on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, to advise the General Assembly that for the five positions to be filled from our area on the Economic and Social Council for the period beginning 1 January 1994 there are five candidatures: France, Germany, Greece, Ireland and Portugal. These candidates have been fully endorsed by the Group.

The PRESIDENT: In accordance with the rules of procedure, we shall proceed now to the election by secret ballot, taking into account the statements made by the representatives of Afghanistan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, Cuba and New Zealand.

Ballot papers marked A, B, C, D and E will now be distributed. I request representatives to use only those ballot papers and to write on them the names of the States for which they wish to vote.

A ballot paper containing more names from the relevant region than the number of seats assigned to it will be declared invalid. Should they appear on a ballot paper, names of Member States which do not belong to that region will not be counted at all.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Yahya (Brunei Darussalam), Mrs. Valle Camino (Cuba), Mr. Silis (Latvia), Ms. Iiyambo (Namibia) and Ms. Nicolaisen (Norway) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 10.50 a.m. and resumed at 12.10 p.m.

Mrs. Frechette (Canada), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group A - African States

Number of ballot papers:	171
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	171
Abstentions:	2
Number of Members voting:	169
Required two-thirds majority:	113
Number of votes obtained:	
Egypt	167
Ghana	166
Zimbabwe	166
Senegal	165
United Republic of Tanzania	165
Zambia	1

Group B - Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	171
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	171
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	171
Required two-thirds majority:	114
Number of votes obtained:	
Japan	149
Indonesia	129
Pakistan	97
Kazakhstan	63
Papua New Guinea	59

Group C - Eastern European States

Number of ballot papers:	171
Number of invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	169
Abstentions:	8
Number of Members voting:	161
Required two-thirds majority:	108
Number of votes obtained:	
Bulgaria	161

Group D - Latin American and Caribbean States

Number of ballot papers:	171
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	171
Abstentions:	3
Number of Members voting:	168
Required two-thirds majority:	112
Number of votes obtained:	
Venezuela	166
Chile	164
Paraguay	158
Costa Rica	155
Ecuador	1
Uruguay	1

Group E - Western European and Other States

Number of ballot papers:	171
Number of invalid ballots:	0
Number of valid ballots:	171
Abstentions:	2
Number of Members voting:	169
Required two-thirds majority:	113
Number of votes obtained:	
Ireland	164
France	161
Portugal	160
Greece	159
Germany	156
Malta	6
New Zealand	2
Spain	1
Sweden	1

The following States, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, were elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 1994: Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Paraguay, Portugal, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Zimbabwe.

The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the States which have been elected members of the Economic and Social Council.

Since one seat remains to be filled from among the Asian States, we shall now proceed to the first restricted ballot. This second round of balloting shall be restricted to those two States from among the Asian States which were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot, namely, Kazakhstan and Pakistan. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Ballot papers will now be distributed. I request representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they wish to vote. Ballot papers will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State

other than Kazakhstan or Pakistan, or if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Yahya (Brunei Darussalam), Mrs. Valle Camino (Cuba), Mr. Silis (Latvia), Ms. Iiyambo (Namibia) and Ms. Nicolaisen (Norway) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 12.30 p.m. and resumed at 12.45 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Number of ballot papers:	174
Number of invalid ballots:	3
Number of valid ballots:	171
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	171
Required two-thirds majority:	114
Number of votes obtained:	
Pakistan	106
Kazakhstan	65

The PRESIDENT: This restricted ballot has been inconclusive. In accordance with the rules of procedure, we should continue the series of restricted ballots. In view of the lateness of the hour, however, I propose that further balloting be postponed until 3 p.m.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

34th PLENARY MEETING
Thursday, 21 October 1993 at 3 p.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. INSANALLY (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 15

ELECTIONS TO FILL VACANCIES IN PRINCIPAL ORGANS

(b) ELECTION OF 18 MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT: This afternoon the General Assembly will continue with the election of 18 members of the Economic and Social Council to replace those members whose terms of office expires on 31 December 1993.

As no candidate obtained the required two-thirds majority in the previous ballot and one seat still remains to be filled from among the Asian States, we shall now proceed to the second restricted ballot.

This third round of balloting shall be restricted to those two States from among the Asian States which were not elected but obtained the largest number of votes in the previous ballot - namely, Kazakhstan and Pakistan. This is in accordance with rule 94 of the rules of procedure.

Ballot papers will now be distributed. I ask representatives to write on the ballot papers the name of the State for which they want to vote.

Ballot papers will be declared invalid if they contain the name of a State other than Kazakhstan or Pakistan and also if they contain the name of more than one State.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Yahya (Brunei Darussalam), Mrs. Valle Camino (Cuba), Mr. Silis (Latvia), Ms. Iiyambo (Namibia) and Ms. Nicolaisen (Norway) acted as tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The meeting was suspended at 3.35 p.m. and resumed at 3.45 p.m.

The PRESIDENT: The result of the voting is as follows:

Group B - Asian States

Number of ballot papers:	161
Number of invalid ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	159
Abstentions:	0
Number of Members voting:	159
Required two-thirds majority:	106
Number of votes obtained:	
Pakistan	116
Kazakhstan	43

The following State, having obtained the required two-thirds majority, was elected a member of the Economic and Social Council for a period of three years beginning on 1 January 1994: Pakistan.

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The PRESIDENT: I congratulate the State which has been elected a member of the Economic and Social Council, and I thank the tellers for their assistance in the election.

The following 18 States have thus been elected members of the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 1994: Bulgaria, Chile, Costa Rica, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Pakistan, Paraguay, Portugal, Senegal, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

That concludes our consideration of agenda item 15 (b).

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: I should like to inform members that on Monday, 25 October, in the afternoon, in addition to the agenda items already scheduled for that meeting, namely the introduction of sub-item (b) of agenda item 108 (Effective realization of the right of self-determination through autonomy) and the consideration of agenda item 22 (University for Peace) and agenda item 23 (Programmes and activities to promote peace in the world), the Assembly will take up, as the last item, agenda item 167 (Building a peaceful and better world through sport).

The list of speakers for agenda item 167 is now open.

The meeting rose at 3.50 p.m.

United Nations
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Official Records

35th PLENARY MEETING
Friday, 22 October 1993 at 10 a.m.

NEW YORK

President: Mr. INSANALLY (Guyana)

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m

AGENDA ITEM 45

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF NICARAGUA: AFTERMATH OF THE WAR AND NATURAL DISASTERS

(*a*) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (A/48/318 and Corr.1)

(*b*) DRAFT RESOLUTION (A/48/L.10)

The PRESIDENT: I call on the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/48/L.10.

Mr. PALLAIS (Nicaragua) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Allow me at the outset to thank the Secretary-General for his efforts on behalf of the economic and social reconstruction of Nicaragua and for publishing the report contained in document A/48/318 and Corr.1.

The vision of a world in deep and continuing transformation - one in which our societies are the principal factors for change, the beginning and end points of the essence of man - is shocking when we think of the enormous responsibility of the United Nations, which holds the future of the world in its hands.

Nicaragua has emerged from a history filled with the hallmarks of violence into the modern world and the civility of the contemporary global village, taking a road strewn with many difficulties of all kinds. Contemporary sociology and political science have decided to call this phenomenon a "transition" - the passage from one state to another.

In the specific circumstances of our own socio-political, economic and cultural evolution - as recently described by our President before the General Assembly - Nicaraguans have been going through a complex stage of transition that is helping us to move from confrontation to democratic consensus, from a centralized economy to a social market economy, from totalitarianism to democracy, from war to peace.

The Government of Nicaragua, with the assistance of the democratic political forces and the support of the people, is making enormous efforts to overcome its major challenges: the aftermath of war, and poverty and natural disasters. Though we have managed to restore a certain degree of stability to the country, it is not as solid or permanent as we would wish. We must urgently improve the living conditions of a population that needs health care, education and food - that is, a dignified standard of living.

For a number of reasons, the macroeconomic measures we have taken have not sufficed to give a decisive impetus to our economic recovery and thus bring our country back into the world economy. We have been able partially to service our debt since 1991, but debt-servicing has now reached unsustainable levels. Without a prompt and drastic solution to our inherited debt - a solution in which 95 per cent of its stock is forgiven - Nicaragua's economic and social recovery will be virtually impossible.

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It must be emphasized that during the decade of conflict in the 1980s, the direct and indirect military cooperation received by Nicaragua was of the order of more than $6 billion, representing more than 50 per cent of the external debt burdening the Nicaraguan people today. In other words, more economic assistance was available for the war than is available today to deal urgently with the aftermath of that war and to strengthen peace and democracy.

My country faces a most complex dilemma in continuing to pay this inherited debt, undermining the foundations of its economic and social reconstruction. Yet over the past three years we have paid the multilateral financial institutions more than we have received for economic and social investment.

Thus, after meeting our obligations to the financial institutions, our liquid resources to promote the actual production of goods and services are scarce. During the four years of the Chamorro Government, of every dollar of liquid external cooperative finance and subsequent new loans, only two cents has remained for economic and social investment after paying for oil imports. These special circumstances - which must be reversed - have led to a gradual deterioration of social conditions: critical poverty, malnutrition, unemployment or underemployment exceeding 45 per cent, precarious health services, and a high dropout rate from school - to which we must add the natural disasters that beset us in 1992 and 1993.

To respond coherently to the consequences of the crisis, the Government of Nicaragua, in consultation with the United Nations and multilateral financial institutions, formulated in January 1993 a development strategy combining social policies with economic policies and enhancement of Government offices' administrative capacity.

Nicaragua welcomed with gratitude and hope resolutions 47/118 of 18 December 1992 and 47/169 of 22 December 1992. We deeply appreciate the contributions of organs and agencies of the United Nations system in various areas, along with the various initiatives supported by the international community.

In the framework of the United Nations, our President's request to the Secretary-General for the establishment of an active group of countries friends of Nicaragua will play a key role for our country in an international context characterized by reduced flows of international cooperation and by our own need for external cooperation. The historic effort of our people and our Government to consolidate democracy cannot succumb; Nicaragua must not become a delayed victim of the cold war.

While the relationship between economics and politics may seem obvious, the close links between economics and democracy are the subject of increasing scrutiny by scholars. In that connection, we agree with the Secretary-General's view, stated in his report on the work of the Organization, that

> "Without peace, there can be no development and there can be no democracy. Without development, the basis for democracy will be lacking and societies will tend to fall into conflict. And without democracy, no sustainable development can occur; without such development, peace cannot long be maintained." *(A/48/1, para. 11)*

The deterioration of social conditions has eroded the credibility of the democratic political institutions we want to strengthen and institutionalize in my country. The despair of some minority social sectors has sometimes been expressed in desperate and violent action.

Still, no viable solution can emerge from the exasperation of those who one way or another are ultimately making apologies for violence. To the contrary, history has consistently shown that without democracy and democratic institutions there can be no genuine, true political development, just as it has confirmed that dialogue and political negotiation are the best means of settling disputes.

My Government's efforts to make the transition from war to peace, from totalitarianism to democracy, show the complexity of our process as well as the indissoluble links between peace, democracy and development.

The ongoing process of disarming civilians is contributing to the demilitarization of our society after a decade of military confrontation and stark political polarization. The demobilization of groups, rearmed with socio-economic and political motivation; the resolute combat against rural banditry; the demining of large areas that were the scene of military conflict; the reduction of the army's budget and manpower: these have all contributed to the pacification of Nicaragua and to confirming that our President's policy of national reconciliation is the correct course.

Other activities include the gradual, effective solution of the problem of property ownership; the strengthening of

the judiciary; the resolution of conflicts within our National Legislative Assembly; and the work of the tripartite Commission to investigate charges of murder against former members of the Nicaraguan resistance, demobilized members of the army and other individuals. President Chamorro's political will to continue professionalizing and institutionalizing the armed forces through a bill on military organization that clearly subordinates the armed forces to the civilian authorities and the professionalization and institutionalization of the national police create better conditions for Nicaragua to build a State based on the rule of law that will provide security and guarantee justice to its citizens.

Nicaragua's three-faceted transition is unique and must therefore be addressed in a special way. In our view, that means not only recognizing the different conditions we face, but also making every possible effort to sustain and develop a process that is vital for our people and holds out hope to our region and to all those who have been supporting us in our time of trouble.

Thus Nicaragua hopes for unique, special treatment that will give it flexibility in implementing structural-adjustment measures, so that without losing the direction or aims of that necessary adjustment it can have access on preferential terms to loans giving incentives to social investment and local production, and so that we can bring into line with our situation the rate of fiscal adjustment, the lowering of tariffs and the freeing up of the financial system.

Like many other developing countries, Nicaragua continues to be plagued by the problem of external debt, and there must be a new approach to this problem for us to find stable and lasting solutions. Our country's external debt of $10.8 billion places us in a much worse position than any other high-debt, low-income country. Our prioritized annual debt servicing - I am referring here to the multilateral institutions and the Club of Paris - represents 76 per cent of projected exports, which makes it impossible to generate the level of investments necessary for our economic and social development.

Peace in Nicaragua also represents peace in Central America. On our national stability also depend, to a great extent, a range of differing types of processes that are all taking place at once as part of the regional process now under way towards political and economic integration. The settlement of the military conflicts in Nicaragua and El Salvador and the progress being made in Guatemala towards actively developing political negotiations with insurgent groups must be kept up in an interdependent, overall way.

We believe that the international community's contribution to these processes now unfolding to the benefit of our peoples is decisive if we are to establish Central America as the region of peace, democracy, freedom and development which we proclaimed, with the support of the General Assembly, in resolution 46/109. This is the only way to put us definitively and completely on the path of democracy and social progress that is being taken by other societies in a world that is ever more global and interdependent and where the bygone patterns of the cold war have passed away to reveal the urgency of allocating material resources to social development and human well-being.

Today we have come before this great General Assembly of the United Nations to reaffirm that our calling is as a peaceful, hard-working nation and to repeat our call for your countries to become part of our effort to consolidate peace and democracy not only in Nicaragua, but also in Central America. Nicaragua is in urgent need of that effort on the part of the international community, and of its resolute support, to sustain the aspirations of a people that wants to rebuild its country in peace, justice and democracy.

International assistance for rehabilitating and reconstructing Nicaragua is a practical, tangible, realistic and sound way of contributing to the values that will guide the progress of humanity into the next century, when the extreme poverty and want that resulted from the great imbalances and conflicts of the twentieth century will be just a tale told of a past to which the world society of the twenty-first century will not wish to return unless it wants to wipe itself out.

Today, my delegation, on behalf of all the sponsors, has the honour of introducing to this plenary meeting of the Assembly a draft resolution entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters" and contained in document A/48/L.10.

The first, third and fifth preambular paragraphs are similar to those contained in resolution 47/169 on this same subject, which the Assembly adopted at its session last year.

In the second preambular paragraph the General Assembly would recall resolution 47/169 of 22 December 1992, and the fourth and sixth introduce into

the draft resolution new elements whose purpose is to incorporate aspects of particular relevance to the developing situation in Nicaragua. The most salient points concern the havoc wreaked on the country and its people by the recent hurricane; the socio-economic effects of applying adjustment measures that leave us no room for material growth and social investment and have led Nicaragua to request exceptional treatment, the better to be able to cope with the crisis it is going through; and the progress the Government of Nicaragua has made in securing a broad social consensus for the reconstruction and economic and social development.

In the operative part, paragraph 1 has the same wording as last year's resolution while paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 contain ideas that expand on it. Paragraphs 5 and 6 are procedural in nature.

Nicaragua needs the international community's support and solidarity to overcome the aftermath of the war and the natural disasters that have beset it in recent years. Unanimous adoption by the Assembly of the draft resolution we have submitted would send a clear signal of a political will to support the political and economic processes we are implementing in my country. Unanimous adoption and the international community's support and solidarity would consolidate peace in Nicaragua, and its democratic process, and the United Nations community could be proud, always, of such a magnificent contribution.

We are grateful to all the sponsors of the draft resolution which are listed in document A/48/L.10, and to all those which have joined in supporting it. For Nicaragua, the cooperation and support we have received is of great importance.

Mr. CORREA (Chile) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Six days ago, in Santiago, Chile, during the seventh summit meeting of the Rio Group, which was attended by the Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean countries of which that political concertation mechanism is composed, approved a declaration that reads as follows:

> "The Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group support the appeal made by the President of the Republic of Nicaragua, Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, in her recent address to the General Assembly of the United Nations, to the effect that economic cooperation afforded her country should be increased, and they express their willingness to continue their resolute support with a view to contributing to solving Nicaragua's problems.
>
> "The Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group urge the international community and the financial agencies, particularly the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank to grant Nicaragua treatment in line with the exceptional situation in that country, as a contribution to the democratic stability of Nicaragua and of the whole Central American region."

The declaration by the Heads of State and Government in the Rio Group reiterates something that had been sought at the United Nations through the resolution adopted to that effect, namely that there is a complete international consensus that the situation in Nicaragua, by reason of the special circumstances, necessitates assistance in the form of broad-based cooperation to enable Nicaragua to make a definitive recovery and promote sustained development; this would make its democratic process, and the peace it so desires, irreversible.

We must weigh the full meaning and consequences of the words addressed to the Assembly by the President of Nicaragua when she said:

> "The economic problem is our greatest source of instability, because it creates tensions in the political and social environment, jeopardizing national and regional stability. If foreign aid arrives late, if strong conditions are placed on it or it becomes a political tool, as happened in 1992 and is happening now, democracy in Nicaragua could collapse." *(Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Plenary Meetings, 8th meeting, p. 11)*

We do not want such a collapse to occur, and that is why we have included our effort in plans for cooperation with this fraternal country. The Governments of Latin America cannot stand idly by when any of the countries in the region, without exception, is in danger of collapse. Our duty is to help each and every one of them resolve its problems and crises while avoiding the internal confrontation and chaos that are so costly for their peoples.

In 1991 the President of the Republic of Chile attended the summit meeting of Central American leaders held at San Salvador. On that occasion President Aylwin formally announced the initiation of a programme of technical cooperation with Central America, within the framework of which our work with Nicaragua is proceeding.

Since that time, Chile's policy of technical cooperation has become a cornerstone of its relations with

the Central American region, particularly with Nicaragua. We have singled out that country, not only because of the particularly serious nature of its situation, but also because Chile wishes, through a resolute policy of cooperation, to make up for lost time in the relations between the two countries. We therefore appreciate the progress made in the development of the programmes that have already been established and which are now being fully executed. Of particular note are the new projects that are developing, especially in the social area, to help handicapped children and minors in need of special care. We are also studying a request for support in carrying out a programme to modernize and professionalize the national police force in Nicaragua.

From the foregoing it will be clear that the agreements being worked on at present for cooperation in selected sectors between the Nicaraguan Government and our International Cooperation Agency are of great importance to our future relations. Of especial relevance have been the programmes in support of universities and the training of human resources through post-graduate and masters fellowships.

Moreover, of special note is Chile's involvement of the private sector in this effort. Accordingly, an agreement has been signed between the Society for the Promotion of Manufacturing, an entity made up of private entrepreneurs in our country, and the Nicaraguan Association of Non-Traditional Exporters, the execution of which also involved resources from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Similarly, technical assistance in fisheries resources has been developed through the Chilean Institute for the Promotion of Fisheries and the Nicaraguan Institute for Fisheries. Similarly, through the Organization of American States (OAS), assistance was provided for the removal of mines, through a team of instructors-supervisors, a matter of particular importance to the safety of the population. This work has been subject to evaluation. A technical group set up to implement the agreements on bilateral cooperation has already held its first meeting.

All these tasks are part of a greater undertaking, namely supporting the enhancement and stability of democracy. Our country has maintained resolute and unconditional support for the process of democratization and pacification in Nicaragua, and we attach great value to efforts to ensure that all national sectors can be involved in the political and institutional life of the country within a constructive and fully legal framework.

To that end, among other activities pursued in this area, the Under-Secretaries for Government and for the presidency accompanied by the Superintendent of Insurance and Securities in Chile, attended a seminar in Managua last week on experiences in the transition to democracy, which was organized by the Government of Nicaragua and co-sponsored by the International Organization for Migration and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

This cooperation will help to promote achievement of the priority objectives in Nicaragua: peace, reconciliation, respect for human rights and the consolidation of democracy.

Despite these efforts it has become absolutely imperative to channel substantial financial resources to the cooperation that Chile and other countries have been giving so that it will be directed to the right purposes and developed effectively for the benefit of the population. Efforts in regard to training human resources would be pointless if these people did not have appropriate conditions in which to carry out their activities.

Nicaragua is in need of resources in order to revive all of its areas of productivity, and to that end the international community and multilateral financial bodies have a broad spectrum of areas into which to channel their efforts towards the attainment of that goal.

Experience shows that consolidating peace in the wake of a conflict needs to be linked to global development efforts in the political, economic, social and cultural spheres and resources should be channelled accordingly.

That applies absolutely to the situation in Nicaragua. The Government of Chile joins in the efforts being made by the Government of Nicaragua but it must also point out that the results cannot be perceived immediately. This requires understanding and support on the part of the international community and the strenuous efforts of all of the people towards the common objective of change and growth.

The consolidation of peace begins with practical and immediate measures to restore the normal functioning of society, to revive the economy, to restore the land and its productivity, and to organize the return and resettlement of displaced persons and refugees. It is also essential to reduce the volume of weapons in the hands of society at large, which is one element that leads to instability, and which may in turn lead to violence. Such steps require an

effort on the part of all the people of Nicaragua, not just of a few, since they are the ones who will lay the foundations for sustainable social, political and economic development.

For its part, international cooperation can help to lend support to a society that is still wounded but anxious to build an increasingly sound democracy, a democracy of mature coexistence.

Mr. ALBIN (Mexico) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: The Central American region has shown its unshakeable will to overcome decades of violence, instability and lack. The process of peacemaking has now spread to the entire region. For a very long time there has been a need for the good will of the countries of the subregion and sectors of their societies and for international support.

For Mexico, Central America is of priority interest because we border on the region and have cultural and historical links which bind us to it. My country has therefore undertaken cooperative activities on a continuing basis in order to support the recovery and economic development of the five countries of the region.

One of the activities that perhaps best reflect this was the signing in August 1992 of an agreement to liberalize trade with Central American countries, the final objective being the creation of an open area for investment and the free flow of goods and services.

Nicaragua is a country that is today facing serious challenges. It has been making serious efforts to rebuild its democracy, to give new dynamism to its economy in a society which has often been polarized. In addition to destructive actions on the part of people, there have been natural disasters which have worsened the already precarious economic and social conditions of the country. The economy, which has been marked by serious imbalances, has put Nicaragua into the category of lowest-income countries. The amount of its official debt is approximately $11,000 million. The per capita debt is the highest in the world.

In the midst of these difficulties, Nicaragua has begun a process of political reform directed towards national reconstruction, peacemaking, reduction of the army, and the demobilization of resistance. This process has gone along with consultation, dialogue and the reaching of agreement with the various political groups.

On the bilateral level, my country is participating in an intensive programme of cooperation with Nicaragua. Between January and October 1993, 60 projects were carried out in such spheres as combating poverty, telecommunications, energy, technical training, health, privatizing ports, agriculture, environment, labour and public administration.

When Mrs. Violeta Chamorro visited Mexico last August, the President of Mexico reaffirmed his support for collaborating in the stabilization of the Nicaraguan economy. He also expressed his concern over the manner in which various political forces have sought to resolve their differences with unlawful acts, which has negative effects on the efforts made by Nicaraguans to establish peace and reactivate the economy.

We are pleased to take note of the activities carried out by the United Nations system to help Nicaragua, in particular those of the United Nations Development Programme, as described in the report of the Secretary-General that was prepared in accordance with resolution 47/169. That document points out that one of the main problems of the transition is perhaps the lack of integrated policies and strategies for development and stabilization.

We must recognize that the efforts of the people and the Government of Nicaragua will be in vain if the community of nations and international organizations do not extend their fullest cooperation to enable Nicaragua to consolidate its own objectives of democracy and economic and social development. We urge the international community and financial organs, in particular the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Inter-American Development Bank, to give Nicaragua the help it deserves in the exceptional circumstances prevailing there.

For our part, I wish to reiterate here the unbending determination of the Government of Mexico to continue working in close cooperation with the brotherly country of Nicaragua, bilaterally or through any mechanism established, to enable it to move ahead on the road to peace and economic and social development. The appeal sent out by the Nicaraguan delegation to the international community to collaborate in those efforts is our appeal as well.

Hence, we have co-sponsored the draft resolution contained in document A/48/L.10, and we invite Member States to give it their unanimous support.

Mr. YAÑEZ BARNUEVO (Spain) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: The inclusion of the item entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and

natural disasters" in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly makes clear how important it is that the United Nations continue to follow through in the process of rehabilitating and reconstructing a country that was mired in a conflict whose political, social and economic consequences require comprehensive attention and treatment on the part of the international community.

Nicaragua is an example of a country in which a process of peace and national reconciliation, with the support of the international community, at first had positive results under the leadership of the constitutional President of the Republic, Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro. As President Chamorro pointed out a short time ago from the rostrum of the General Assembly Hall, Nicaragua has before it the immense task of carrying out a transition from war to peace, from a centralized economy to a market economy and from confrontation to democratic consensus.

However, it must be recognized that the international community, lulled into overconfidence by the initial positive developments, gave too little attention and too little support during the period following the settlement of the conflict, which could be termed the period of "convalescence". It was in that period that the political situation deteriorated, and this caused a parallel deterioration in the economic and social situation.

The events that have taken place recently in Managua and other Nicaraguan cities show the fragility of the process of consolidating democracy and the resulting need for the international community's constant, sustained support for that process in the circumstances prevailing in a country such as Nicaragua. Obviously, it is up to the Nicaraguan people themselves to make decisive headway in the process of national reconciliation, with the participation of all the political and social forces. They should know, none the less, that in that endeavour they have the international community's encouragement and backing.

Any retrogression in the Nicaraguan process not only would have a serious effect on the country itself, but could also have negative repercussions in the Central American region, which is still emerging from a long period of conflict. For the same reason, the advances made in Nicaragua will mean progress in the shaping of a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development in Central America, in accordance with the objective stated in resolution 47/118, adopted at the last session of the General Assembly. In that resolution, the Assembly encouraged initiatives of the Central American countries to consolidate Governments which base their development on democracy, peace, cooperation and strict respect for human rights.

The close link between the process of political reconciliation and that of economic recovery in Nicaragua has been made clear by the Secretary-General in his report (A/48/318 and Corr.1) submitted to this session of the Assembly. It has also been underscored by the European Community and its member States, which, in their declaration of 26 August last, urged a genuine national reconciliation and requested all the political and social forces to join together, transcend their differences and work towards the strengthening of democracy and development in Nicaragua.

In resolution 47/169, adopted by consensus at the last session of the General Assembly, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the relevant organs and organizations of the United Nations system, to provide Nicaragua all possible assistance to support the consolidation of peace, in areas such as the settlement of displaced and demobilized persons and refugees, land ownership and land tenure in rural areas, direct care for war victims, mine clearance and, in general, to promote a process of sustained recovery and development that will render the peace and democracy achieved irreversible.

The Secretary-General's report highlights the advances that have been made in the political arena. Recent events indicate, however, that there is still a long way to go before they are consolidated. In the economic sphere, the stabilization programme has made major improvements possible through a reduced rate of inflation, and structural adjustments have expedited the conversion of the economic system into a market economy. However, these programmes have not been sufficient to reactivate the Nicaraguan economy, which, on account of demographic factors, is still showing a negative per capita growth rate. All of this has led to a worsening of social conditions, threatening consolidation of the country's fledgling democracy. Particularly worrying is the size of the external debt, which, according to the Secretary-General's report, is, on a per capita basis, the highest in the world.

Spain, both individually and as a member of the European Community, has been providing all possible assistance to Nicaragua in this crucial phase of its efforts to establish peace and democracy and to promote development. From the 1980s, because of the situation in that country, our cooperation has been directed primarily to the areas of health, housing, infrastructure and services. With the attainment of peace, our bilateral cooperation has intensified in the social, labour and technical training

sectors, in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and the environment and, very centrally, in institutional support, both national and local. Training and scientific and technical cooperation have been priorities in Spain's cooperation with Nicaragua. During the period 1990-1993, the value of Spanish grants in bilateral cooperation with Nicaragua reached 2,550 million pesetas.

For all these reasons, Spain urges the Secretary-General and the United Nations system to continue to give Nicaragua every possible assistance to consolidate and strengthen the democratic process and enhance the country's economic and social development. For these reasons, too, my delegation became a sponsor of draft resolution A/48/L.10, which we urge the General Assembly to adopt.

Mr. WISNUMURTI (Indonesia): I deem it a distinct honour and privilege to speak on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on this important item, entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters". The Secretary-General's comprehensive report (A/48/318 and Corr.1), paints a sombre picture of the situation in Nicaragua and has rightly drawn our attention to the deteriorating economic conditions in that country.

At their tenth Summit meeting, held in Jakarta in September 1992, the non-aligned countries declared, inter alia, unequivocal support for Nicaragua's ongoing efforts to achieve its objectives, and expressed the hope that national dialogue, the deepening of the democratic process and continued international cooperation would make it possible to overcome the main obstacles facing that country in the present circumstances.

Reflecting this decision, the Foreign Ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement at their meeting earlier this month called upon the main political forces to continue their efforts towards a productive dialogue in order to achieve the social and economic reconstruction of Nicaragua. They also called upon the international community to maintain its support for Nicaragua to overcome political and economic problems and to consolidate its democracy.

Following a decade of civil strife, the Government of Nicaragua has made significant progress in achieving peace, reconciliation and national concertation, concertation which has made it possible to lay the foundations for economic recovery and social development. However, many obstacles lie ahead. The case of Nicaragua is unique. As a developing country, Nicaragua is indeed vulnerable to natural calamities such as have beset it recently. We believe that these calamities, which have exposed the vulnerability of Nicaragua's economy and of its environment, have rendered the nation incapable of advancing its development. Moreover, after years of turmoil, the nation's economy is critically in need of sustained assistance. The situation in Nicaragua clearly reflects the indivisibility of peace, stability and development. Indeed - and this is a highly charged political, economic and social question - peace cannot prevail unless such aid is substantial.

The cumulative effects of natural disasters, civil war and economic crisis have made the situation untenable and thus made Nicaragua a deserving candidate for concerted international support and assistance. We therefore reiterate our backing for resolutions 47/118 and 47/169. Significantly, they were adopted by consensus, which reflects recognition of the plight of the Nicaraguan people and of the need for the international community to give them the necessary support to promote and accelerate rehabilitation and economic and social reconstruction, in order to overcome the aftermath of the war and the adverse consequences of natural disasters.

Against this backdrop, we acknowledge the effective and comprehensive response of the United Nations and the way in which its efforts have been mobilized. Initial rehabilitative measures have already been embarked upon through the United Nations Development Programme and various other agencies of our Organization. The medium- and long-term measures comprehensively covered in the Secretary-General's report are indeed essential to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua.

One of the serious problems that must be addressed urgently is the question of Nicaragua's external debt. Although Nicaragua is not considered to be a least-developed country, we firmly believe that, in view of its economic and social conditions and its vulnerability to nature, and taking into account its total debt in relation to population size, the nation should be accorded special treatment. We therefore strongly endorse the recommendation implied in paragraph 62 of the Secretary-General's report. In this regard, it is pertinent to note that the Non-aligned Movement is to hold a meeting - scheduled for later this year - on the foreign-debt problems of countries of the Movement. This may provide an opportunity to facilitate ways and means of resolving Nicaragua's debt problem.

I should like, in conclusion, to take this opportunity to express our solidarity with the Government and people

of Nicaragua at this time of great need and to add that we stand ready to provide our full support for these broad international cooperation endeavours.

Mr. FULCI (Italy): Italy wishes to reaffirm its strong commitment to the peace process in Central America, which began with the historic Esquipulas Agreements. My country wholeheartedly supports the Government and the people of Nicaragua as they develop their democracy and their economy. Over the past few years, Italy has contributed to this process - in deeds, and not in words alone - through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), by granting $115 million to establish the Development Programme for the Displaced, Refugee and Repatriated (PRODERE).

In countries scarred by armed conflict - be it internal or external - the primary and most urgent need is humanitarian assistance. But between emergency relief and new social and economic development, there is a need for rehabilitation, or convalescence, as was said quite rightly by our Spanish colleague, Ambassador Yáñez Barnuevo. PRODERE meets precisely that need for rehabilitation, or convalescence; it is a sort of *trait d'union* between the two major phases.

PRODERE is being implemented in six countries, including El Salvador and Nicaragua. It is designed primarily to create the conditions necessary for the social and economic integration of displaced people, refugees and those returning to their homes after a war. It concerns several dozen war-scarred municipalities, where rehabilitation and reconciliation can make a real difference.

We feel particularly indebted to UNDP for the exemplary way in which it has conducted this initiative, which has been a genuine success story, as all the participants can testify - so successful, in fact, that Italy and UNDP are seriously considering the possibility of extending the PRODERE approach to other parts of the world that have been, or are, afflicted by similar tragedies.

PRODERE's main features are: first, the programme is designed to bring together components of humanitarian relief and development aid; secondly, the entire community being resettled is, without any discrimination, involved: former soldiers, ex-guerrillas, local leaders, government officials, refugees, returnees and those who remained and suffered in place; thirdly, local organizations - including Government institutions, non-governmental organizations and cooperatives - actively participate in the programme; and, fourthly, it is the recipient community that identifies its priority needs, such as housing, health care, sanitation services and primary education. Agricultural projects and other income-generating activities are also a key target of PRODERE. In short, community participation, sustainable activities and human-resource development are at the heart of this unique programme. They are the keys to social integration, economic growth and institution rebuilding.

From this rostrum, Italy wants to pay a tribute to Nicaragua for its vigorous pursuit of political reconciliation and economic reconstruction. But we must remember that these are not goals that can be achieved overnight. They require determination, constant struggle and effort, not only from the interested countries themselves but from all of us. That is why Italy will continue to offer its unwavering support for this process on a bilateral basis, through the European Community and through the United Nations.

Consequently, Mr. President, I have the honour to inform you that Italy is glad to co-sponsor resolution A/48/L.10, introduced and so eloquently described by the Nicaraguan Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. José Pallais, and to recommend its adoption by this Assembly.

Mr. MARRERO (United States of America): My delegation supports the draft resolution before us today under agenda item 45, entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters", and looks forward to its adoption this morning by consensus.

My delegation knows that the Government of Nicaragua has critical need of external assistance to shore up its economy and to help consolidate its democracy. The Government of the United States supports Nicaragua's goal of national reconciliation and wants to see the Government succeed. With that in mind, my delegation believes that international economic assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua is essential if the Government is to continue to proceed along the path of a politically stable democratic nation.

We anticipate that the pending talks within Nicaragua will establish a new consensus towards healthy social and economic policies. We hope that such policies will address the dire conditions now prevailing in rural areas and restart productive activity. Furthermore, we look forward to the Nicaraguan Government's plans to invite grass-roots participation in the national dialogue on economic reform. United States aid programmes will place emphasis on that grass-roots participation in the economic life of the nation.

At the same time, and while recognizing how difficult the problems are, external aid alone cannot sustain or ensure the success of the Nicaraguan Government. In the final analysis, it is the Government and the people of Nicaragua that must continue to ensure the social and political stability which in turn inspires the confidence required to generate investment, both Nicaraguan and foreign.

We will continue to watch attentively and encouragingly as the Nicaraguan Government moves to implement its public commitments to its people. I should note that the assistance which my Government can offer through bilateral arrangements is undertaken in tandem with that of multilateral and other donor assistance. My Government is encouraged that at recent meetings of Nicaragua's international donors continued support has been expressed, with emphasis on the importance of national political reconciliation as the prerequisite for effective use of international assistance.

Mr. MARUYAMA (Japan) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Five years ago, when presidential elections were held in Nicaragua in accordance with the democratic process, Japan expressed its sincere congratulations to the people of Nicaragua on the birth of a new democracy, through the Government of President Chamorro. From that time forward, Japan has expressed its sustained support for the Government of President Chamorro, particularly in the light of its commitment to national reconciliation and its efforts to strengthen the democratic process in Nicaragua.

Japan has always attached great value to President Chamorro's efforts to attain political reconciliation in her country during her presidential term. President Chamorro has opted for realistic policies which give priority to economic reconstruction, without neglecting the consequences of war but at the same time forging a democratic political culture based upon tolerance, reconciliation and dialogue.

The challenge in this effort is to maintain a delicate balance so as to make progress without endangering the achievements already attained. For that reason, the Government has sought to avoid confrontation with the Sandinistas, and has been obliged to face various difficulties in administering the country by giving consideration to the opinions of the opposition, which holds the majority of seats in the Congress. As regards the taking of hostages by groups from both extremes of the political spectrum, Japan welcomes the resolution of the problem, achieved through negotiations between the two sectors, the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) and the National Opposition Union (UNO). Japan sincerely hopes that this dialogue will prompt a full development of the tripartite dialogue being pursued by the Nicaraguan Government with the aim of ensuring that political stability is firmly established, with the progress of national dialogue involving all sectors, which is fundamental for laying the foundations of economic development efforts. Japan also recognizes the efforts of the Government of Nicaragua to continue strengthening its democratic institutions, upholding human rights and attending to problems of social security, as well as finding a lasting solution to the question of property rights and clear civilian control over the armed forces. We support the achievements and we emphasize the need to persevere until the full consolidation of democratic institutions has been reached.

We must all recognize the great strides that have been made in the pacification of the Central American region. We must also be aware of the vital influence of the consolidation of peace and the reconstruction of Nicaragua on the stability of the whole Central American region. Accordingly, Japan acknowledges the diplomatic efforts made by the Latin American countries, particularly by Central Americans themselves, towards that common objective. Japan therefore firmly supports these efforts of the Latin American region.

Regarding support for Nicaragua, we must bear in mind, in addition to the efforts of the international community through bodies such as the United Nations, the cooperation conducted through the Association for Democracy and Development of Central America (ADD), which was set up in 1991. Japan has been taking an active part in various activities of the ADD since its inception, as co-chairman of the Working Group on Economic Development and also by chairing the Special Meeting of the ADD in Tokyo last March, with the participation of Foreign Ministers and Economic Ministers of the Central American countries. Japan will continue its active participation in these multilateral forums.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep condolences to the families of the victims of the natural disasters that have recently struck Nicaragua. Japan sincerely hopes that the Nicaraguan people can overcome these tragedies.

In conclusion, I wish once again to confirm, in this international forum, that Japan will continue its support for Nicaragua based on the two D's, democracy and development; we will support the promotion of democracy and cooperate in the economic reform of this friendly

country in a reliable and sustained manner. The Government of Japan supports the draft resolution and has the honour of being one of its co-sponsors.

The PRESIDENT: Before calling on the next speaker, I should like to propose that the list of speakers in the debate on this item now be closed.

It was so decided.

Mr. BIVERO (Venezuela) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Nicaragua's urgent need for rehabilitation and reconstruction has been acknowledged by successive resolutions of this Assembly and in the statements of various political and economic bodies of the Latin American and Caribbean region. On 16 October the Heads of State and Government of the Rio Group, meeting in Santiago, Chile, adopted a declaration on Nicaragua which is the most recent basis for our co-sponsorship of draft resolution A/48/L.10, introduced by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nicaragua, which a group of countries, including Venezuela, is today submitting for consideration. The declaration is also our mandate for recommending the unanimous adoption of the draft resolution as a sign of solidarity with, and commitment to, the people and Government of Nicaragua.

Peace in Central America is a common goal of the Member States of our Organization. We have made numerous efforts to that end and we are sure that we all unreservedly share the desire to see peace consolidated there. Nicaragua is a critical element in the peace process in Central America. Its Government has made praiseworthy efforts to overcome political divisions and the economic and social aftermath of the country's recent history. Its President, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, has given an eloquent account in this Hall of the successes achieved and the obstacles encountered in the process. We in Venezuela are convinced that she deserves our solid support.

Our Organization is increasingly guided by a recognition of the direct link between democracy, peace and development. Nicaragua is a clear-cut case of this interrelationship and of the negative effects that can result if any of these three fundamental objectives are neglected. We are particularly concerned by the difficulties Nicaragua has encountered in gaining an appropriate level of international cooperation to enable it to consolidate the advances achieved through its programmes of macroeconomic adjustment and internal reform. The international community faces an exceptional case which requires measures of support that are also exceptional. Undifferentiated treatment - and particularly treatment to which conditions are attached - must be avoided, in our view, not only for reasons of principle but also for obvious reasons of consistency with the undertaking in which we all play a part, to the extent that we are able: the success of democracy and national reconciliation in Nicaragua.

Venezuela, along with the other countries of the region - in particular in the Group of Three, to which it belongs, together with Colombia and Mexico - has been closely following the situation in Nicaragua. So far as it can, Venezuela will carry out a policy of cooperation with that country which we hope will help to alleviate its difficult economic situation and will strengthen the growing links with its economy, in both the commercial and financial spheres.

We hope this will not be an isolated effort, and we are pleased to recommend again that the draft resolution be adopted by the General Assembly without a vote, as an immediate, concrete manifestation of the solidarity which we are sure the Organization maintains and will continue to maintain with Nicaragua.

Mr. TATTENBACH (Costa Rica) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: Allow me, in speaking for the first time in the General Assembly at this session, to congratulate you most cordially, Sir, and the other officers of the Assembly on the outstanding manner in which our work is being guided and to express my delegation's best wishes for your success.

With regard to the agenda item entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters," I should like, on behalf of the six Central American States, to begin by recalling that, in General Assembly resolution 46/109 B, adopted as a result of Nicaragua's first steps to end the fighting in the region, Central America was declared a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development. Therefore, on behalf of the Central American countries I wish to express our strong solidarity with Nicaragua in connection with the agenda item before us today.

The San Juan River flows between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, both a symbol of union and a geographical boundary, a waterway over which both countries enjoy navigation rights. For a long time, from colonial days until the early years of the last century, that river was an important channel between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Given the economic interests of the era, it also made Nicaragua a focus of conflict.

It is easy to understand why that waterway between the two oceans - the only one in the continent prior to the construction of the Panama Canal - changed Nicaragua into a region of major political interest, even for the European Powers. Suffice it to recall that a naval battle was once waged on the San Juan River - a battle in which so famous and distinguished a figure as Admiral Nelson participated.

Thus, Nicaragua is a country that, owing to its geographical position, has always been involved in one way or another in political and military conflicts. Furthermore, for the same reason, its socio-political life has had, to varying degrees, a constant influence on its Central American neighbours. That history of political and military conflict, which originally had to do with geographic and economic interests, has extended to geopolitical interests, most recently as a result of the East-West conflict, the so-called cold war, which, fortunately, has now come to an end.

We Central Americans have been closely following the process of pacification and democratization initiated by the President of Nicaragua, Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, a process summed up in the three-fold transition through which the country is going, namely, demilitarization, democratization and a change from a centralized to a free-market economy.

That three-fold transition, in addition to the natural disasters that have occurred in Nicaragua over the past three years in the form of volcanic eruptions, tidal waves and hurricanes, has left the country in an extremely difficult economic situation and faced with enormous social pressures that jeopardize its great efforts to consolidate peace and thereby the region's political, economic and social stability.

A country with an economy that is experiencing a level of unemployment and underemployment of over 40 per cent; a country with an external debt of $10.8 billion that entails debt-servicing obligations of nearly $1 billion per year when its exports amount to barely $280 million; a country that is facing social and political pressures as a result of the dramatic reduction in its armed forces and the transition from a totalitarian to a democratic regime: such a country needs to be governed with the greatest patriotism and care and with all the necessary moral and material support from the international community.

That patriotic and prudent Government to which I am referring is the creation of its President, Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, who has, since assuming office in April 1990, set the goal of totally pacifying her country, of consolidating an economic system based on the free market and thereby establish an equitable economic system, and of laying the foundation for a deepening and strengthening of the democratic process.

Here I would recall the following words used by the Secretary-General in his report on the work of the Organization for this year:

> "Without peace, there can be no development and there can be no democracy. Without development, the basis for democracy will be lacking and societies will tend to fall into conflict. And without democracy, no sustainable development can occur; without such development, peace cannot long be maintained." *(A/48/1, para. 11)*

And I would reaffirm that definitive peace cannot be achieved without sustained development and that sustained development cannot exist in so small a country as Nicaragua unless, parallel with its domestic efforts, it can enjoy sufficient economic and financial support from the international community and the financial institutions of its system.

For those reasons we wish to express to Nicaragua our complete approval of the steps which it is taking to obtain international support and which have been so ably described to this meeting of the forty-eighth session of the Assembly by the Vice-Minister for External Relations, Mr. José Pallais.

The countries of Central America fully support draft resolution A/48/L.10, and we hope that the international community represented here will adopt it enthusiastically and unanimously.

Mr. RICARDES (Argentina) *(interpretation from Spanish)*: My delegation is speaking on this item to express its country's support for the appeal made by the President of Nicaragua, Mrs. Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, in her statement during the general debate in the Assembly.

In this connection, we believe that the international community should give increasing priority to the economic recovery of Nicaragua as part of a comprehensive process of economic growth and full social development for its people.

These efforts should be accompanied by assistance from international financial agencies and regional, interregional and non-governmental organizations, in view of the exceptional situation in that fraternal country.

Furthermore, this is an essential contribution to the democratic stability of Nicaragua in particular and the entire Central American region in general. The assistance we are requesting should include - as set out in General Assembly resolution 47/169 - activities for the recovery, reconstruction, development and consolidation of peace of that country. The aim of the comprehensive effort to which we have referred is to strengthen the peace and democracy that have now been established in Nicaragua.

In that regard, my country wishes to reaffirm its enduring commitment to finding a solution to the economic problems of Nicaragua and its readiness to continue cooperating in the areas open to it with a view to helping in the reconstruction of the country so as to promote the consolidation of the atmosphere of peace and *détente* that has emerged in the region since the coming of democracy.

In line with its firm commitments to cooperation with the Republic of Nicaragua, my country has developed a number of technical cooperation projects between our two countries. Among the objectives pursued by these cooperation projects, may be mentioned the improvement of human resources, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and energy. Similarly, the Republic of Argentina has also signed a debt-cancellation convention with the Republic of Nicaragua as my country's further contribution to economic assistance to a brother nation.

The Government of Argentina also feels that it is of crucial importance to reaffirm its full support for constitutional democracy in Nicaragua, the only political system guaranteeing peoples' basic freedoms and social and economic progress.

In conclusion, my delegation lends its full support to the draft resolution submitted for the Assembly's consideration, and hopes that it will be adopted without a vote.

Mr. JARAMILLO (Colombia) *(interpretation from Spanish):* For Colombia, Central America is an area of vital interest. We have followed closely, with great interest and all our attention, the developments in that area. Nicaragua is a fundamental part of the development of Central and Latin America. That is why we have co-sponsored the draft resolution on international assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction Nicaragua.

No one can doubt the efforts that have been made by the people and Government of Nicaragua. We urge the international community to contribute decisively to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua.

We have stressed in various forums, on our own behalf and on behalf of the Group of 77, the importance of continuity - I stress continuity - in the rehabilitation process in the aftermath of the war and natural disasters. We are convinced that peace is built on deeds.

Mr. PALLAIS (Nicaragua) *(interpretation from Spanish):* I wish to express Nicaragua's sincere appreciation for the broad support that has been given by so many friendly countries in this debate.

I am pleased to announce that a consensus has been reached on the draft resolution, and we urge its immediate adoption after we have taken note of the following revisions of the text of document A/48/L.10.

In the third preambular paragraph, the word "enormous" should be deleted.

Following operative paragraph 1, an additional paragraph should be introduced to read as follows:

> "2. Encourages the Government of Nicaragua to continue its efforts aimed at reconstruction and national reconciliation;"

That paragraph will become operative paragraph 2 and the remaining paragraphs will be renumbered accordingly.

The third and last revision is to operative paragraph 3, which was formerly paragraph 2. The words "provision concerning" and "in the case" should be deleted. The revised section of that paragraph would then read as follows:

> "... giving particular attention to the exceptional circumstances of Nicaragua ..."

These are the only revisions to the draft resolution.

The PRESIDENT: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

I should like to announce that the following States have become sponsors of draft resolution A/48/L.10: Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Japan, Mongolia, Nepal, Norway, Paraguay, the Philippines, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America and Uruguay.

The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/48/L.10, as orally revised.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/48/L.10, as orally revised, by consensus?

Draft resolution A/48/L.10, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 48/8).

The PRESIDENT: May I take it that it is the wish of the Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 45?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12 noon